

Inflation and Budget fears drive £ down

Labour far ahead in new Mid Staffs poll

By Robin Oakley and Philip Webster

Conservative Budget euphoria was rapidly punctured yesterday as the pound slumped, prompting fears of a further interest rate rise that could take inflation to double figures in the summer.

As ministers struggled to defend Mr John Major's strategy against City disdain, their gloom was deepened by a MORI poll indicating almost certain defeat in today's Mid Staffordshire by-election.

Bank of England officials yesterday intervened to support the pound after it fell to 85.3 on the trade-weighted index and by the close it stood at 85.5, the lowest since the run on sterling in January 1987. The pound closed at 85.5, down 1.88 cents, and the stock market fell almost 30 points in early trading, but recovered to 2250.3, down 9.4 on the day.

The Chancellor refused to be panicked into an interest rate rise, saying the City had reacted adversely to previous Budgets, but the situation had corrected itself. This was not a Budget for today, tomorrow or the next day, but the first in a series aimed at achieving a low-inflation, high-growth economy.

He did not, however, rule

out further rate rises. "If it is necessary, it will happen," he said. "It is a judgement I will make as and when it occurs."

The Prime Minister's deep anger with the City was made plain by Downing Street. She was said to be scornful of its lack of sophistication and to believe that the Budget was both "tough and fair".

Her response to City accusations that it was too soft and that Mr Major had appeased backbenchers rather than attack economic problems was said to be: "Go tell that to mortgage payers."

Mrs Thatcher's problems will be compounded today when Labour is expected to wipe out the 14,654 majority in Mid Staffordshire and take the seat by some 12,500 votes. Such a spectacular success would be only the sixth Labour by-election gain from the Conservatives in 25 years and the biggest Conservative-Labour swing since the 1930s.

She also faces the prospect of a big jump in inflation next month, when poll tax bills and increased excise duties are expected to add more than one percentage point to the retail price index. Further rises are expected in the following months to a peak of about 9.3 per cent in August, but Mr Roger Bootle of Midland Montagu said that if interest rates had to go up again, inflation could reach double figures.

Although Conservative defeat in Mid Staffordshire has been expected and to some extent discounted already, a result on the lines indicated by MORI will intensify the strains on Mrs Thatcher's leadership and further weaken City confidence in the party's prospects of winning the next election — a key factor in the weakness of the pound.

The poll, conducted in Mid Staffordshire since Tuesday's Budget, shows party support at Labour 55 per cent, Conservatives 28, Liberal Democrats 9, SDP 4, Green Party 3, others 1 per cent.

The figures represent a 26.5 per cent Conservative to Labour swing since the General Election.

However, fewer than half of those intending to vote Labour today are doing so because they back the party's policies, and another 40 per cent are doing so as a protest against the Government. A quarter

were likely to vote for a different party at the next election.

Since the poll tax is at the root of the Government's troubles in Mid Staffordshire, further grim news lies ahead for the Conservatives in the May local elections.

However, most Tory MPs remain convinced that the Chancellor has got his strategy right. In the Commons Budget debate yesterday, Mr Norman Lamont, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, declared: "Pain there may be but gain there will also be. By this time next year the prospects will be distinctly brighter."

He said the Budget was "right for the circumstances, cautious, prudent, firm, neutral and accompanied by a monetary policy that the Government is determined to maintain until inflation is markedly reduced."

To those who maintained it had not been tight enough, the Government would point to the very large fiscal surplus, a surplus unequalled by any country in the world other than Japan, Mr Lamont said.

It was obvious that the increases in inflation had their origins in monetary policy, that was why the response should be a monetary one through high interest rates.

Mr John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, said the Budget was at best irrelevant and at worst positively harmful to the Government's objectives of bringing down inflation and enabling Britain to seize the economic opportunities of the 1990s. "Britain's inflation was made at home and the authors are on the Government front bench and the odd one on the backbenches."

The Government kept scoring inflationary own goals, he said. It was to blame for increased prices in public transport, electricity, water, prescription charges and for the high rise in council rents yet to come.

Today will see publication of the February trade figures, which are expected to show a fall from January's £1.9 billion current account deficit to around £1.3 billion.

Mid Staffs poll, page 2
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Inflation may reach 9% peak in August

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Inflation will rise in the next few months to a peak of more than 9 per cent before starting to fall. The highest rate is likely to occur just as the autumn pay round begins, raising fears of higher wages, falling competitiveness and rising unemployment.

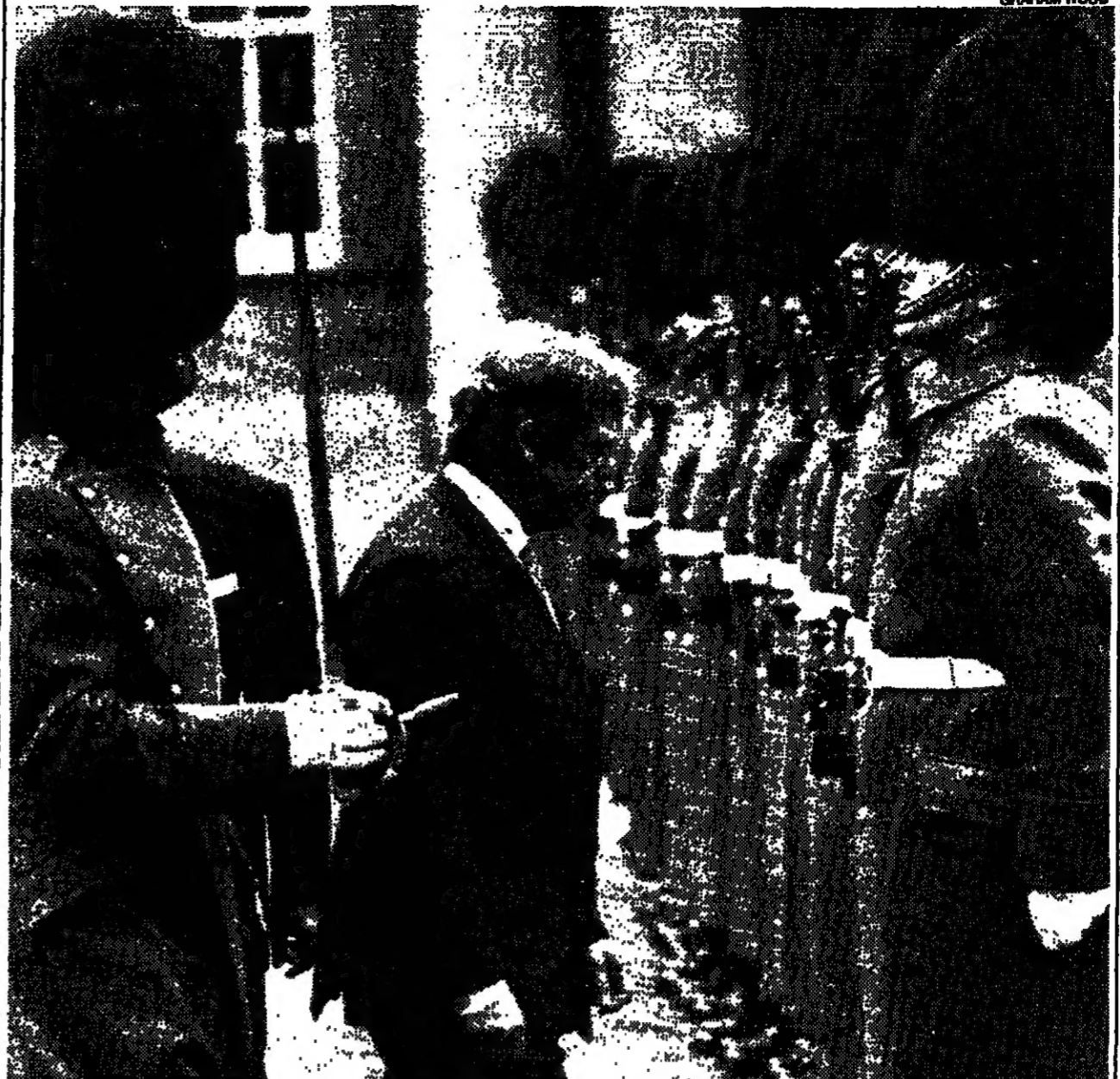
In the Budget Mr John Major, the Chancellor, forecast that inflation would fall to 7½ per cent by the end of the year. But before then a combination of the poll tax, a rise in mortgage rates and the increase in excise duties on cigarettes, drink and petrol will push it up higher.

The January inflation rate of 7.7 per cent is expected to have fallen a little when February's figures are announced tomorrow. But it will begin to rise in March because of recent mortgage rate increases.

The big jump will come in April when inflation is likely to rise by more than 1 per cent to nearly 9 per cent. This will reflect poll tax increases and the new Budget excise duties. Stockbrokers James Capel expect a peak of 9.3 per cent in August.

Riding the wave, page 27

Playwright at the Palace parade



Close inspection: President Havel of Czechoslovakia, the former playwright and dissident, before his meeting with the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday at the start of his state visit. Reports, pages 8 and 22.

New inquiry ordered on Birmingham Six

By Quentin Cowdry and Stewart Tendler

Devon and Cornwall detectives are to begin a fresh but limited inquiry into new evidence put forward on behalf of the Birmingham Six. Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, announced yesterday.

If the inquiry supports doubts about the convictions of the six — Hugh Power, Patrick Hill, Gerry Hunter, Richard McKenny, Billy Power and Johnny Walker — Mr Waddington could send the case to the Court of Appeal for its third hearing.

He could also use the Royal Prerogative to pardon the men or remit their sentences, although the men could soon be released on licence anyway.

After the announcement of the inquiry in a parliamentary written answer the Home Secretary said he thought it "right in all the circumstances" that certain points

raised with the Home Office by solicitors acting for the Birmingham Six should be further examined.

"A great deal of material was offered to the Home Office by solicitors acting for the Birmingham Six. I thought it right in all the circumstances to ask for the assistance of the chief constable (of the West Midlands) who, in turn, has decided to ask for the help of the Devon and Cornwall police," he said.

Devon and Cornwall officers carried out investigations three years ago for a hearing before the Court of Appeal which ended in the rejection of the men's case two years ago.

They will now begin work again on a case prompted by the bombing of two Birmingham public houses 16 years ago in which 21 people died. The six each received life

sentences in 1975. Last year the campaign to free the six received a boost when the West Midlands ordered a corruption inquiry into the force's serious crime squad from whose ranks the original accusers of the six had been drawn.

Then in October the Guildford Four were freed by the Court of Appeal after revelations of alleged malpractice by Surrey police officers shown by police documents.

As Mr Waddington made his announcement, Mr John Patten, the Home Office Minister of State, publicly repeated the Government's challenge to Mr Chris Mullin, the Labour MP for Sunderland South, to reveal the names of the men he says carried out the bombing.

Leading article, page 13

3 dead in Romania violence

By Daniel Treisman

In the worst clashes in Romania since the December revolution, three people have been killed and 226 injured as ethnic Hungarians and Romanians fought in the town of Tirgu Mures.

A state of emergency was declared in the town, 380 miles north of Bucharest, after crowds had thrown stones and petrol bombs and beat opponents with wooden staves. A lorry careered out of control through the town centre, crashing into the town hall steps.

A dozen tanks and 500 soldiers and police guarded the centre of the town as tension between the two communities, which had simmered since the overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu, boiled over this week. The two sides also attacked each other with clubs and scythes on Tuesday

Continued on page 22, col 6

Kremlin decree to curb Baltic split

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

President Gorbachev last night used his all-encompassing new powers to order regulations curbing Lithuania's "independence".

The new measures include increased security at the borders, a ban on possessing firearms, and restrictions on foreigners.

The decree, said the Lithuanians were ignoring a resolution by the national parliament declaring the independence act void.

President Landsbergis of Lithuania said in an interview that he hoped for stronger Western support if Moscow continued its "aggression". Mr Landsbergis told a Danish newspaper that the situation was reminiscent of 1940, when the Soviet Union incorporated Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia.

Mr Gorbachev's decree ordered a ban on the sale of hunting weapons and ordered all people in Lithuania to turn in all weapons in seven days "for temporary storage" by the Interior Ministry or have them confiscated.

The decree ordered the Foreign and Interior Ministries to tighten the issue of visas to foreigners and called for measures to stop foreigners violating rules governing their stay in the Soviet Union.

Border troops of the KGB security service were ordered to adopt "necessary measures to strengthen the guard on border regions." The Soviet Government and security forces were told to "ensure observance of the Constitution and defend the rights and lawful interests" of all residents of Lithuania.

Mr Gorbachev's orders were issued two days after the republic's new leadership defied a Kremlin order to rescind its proclamation and return to the Soviet fold.

Mr Gorbachev responded to the Lithuanian stand on Monday by ordering stepped-up controls on strategic installations.

The decree, which came on the same day as the Supreme Soviet debated legislation that would allow republics to secede, followed an appeal to President Gorbachev by a group of Soviet parliamentarians of the group Soyuz, who wanted direct presidential rule in the republic.

Lithuanian deputies on Tuesday sent a telegram to the Kremlin complaining about increased activity of Soviet soldiers in Lithuania.

Moscow defied, page 8

INSIDE

£363 poll tax average

The average community charge for the coming year will be £363, about £83 higher than the reasonable figure originally set by the Government.

Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced the average in the Commons. It represents an overshoot on total local authority spending of some £3 billion above what the Government considers fair and reasonable. Page 2

Soccer praise

Football's £100 million concession, announced in the Budget to help clubs provide all-seater stadiums, was welcomed yesterday by Lord Justice Taylor, whose suggestions for ground improvements have been taken up by the Government. Page 44

De Klerk talks

President F. W. de Klerk and Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, met in Windhoek, the first ever meeting between a South African head of state and a Soviet minister. Page 10

Quinnen quits

Mr Peter Quinnen, the chairman and chief executive of securities house James Capel, resigned suddenly after policy differences with Capel's parent Hongkong & Shanghai Bank. Page 23

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Bond sells 'Iris' for £25m

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

Van Gogh's "Iris", the world's most expensive painting, has been sold by Mr Alan Bond to the Getty Museum for £25 million.

The news, announced from the California museum last night, ends three months of speculation about the painting's future, as the Australian businessman's business empire crumbled.

Mr John Walsh, the museum's director, said: "Iris" has a power that nobody can miss. A picture this important needs a permanent home, and we're overjoyed that it can be the Getty."

Mr Bond bought the painting after the stock market crash of October, 1987, for £30.2 million.

'Think tank' chief Rothschild dies

By Michael Evans

Lord Rothschild, brilliant scientist, head of the Government "think tank" in the early 1970s, banker and a counter-sabotage expert in MI5 during the Second World War, has died aged 79.

Although since 1975 he was chairman of the famous merchant bank that bears his name, his reputation was based on a career that embraced a huge range of talents.

Mr Edward Heath, who as Prime Minister in 1971 set up the Central Policy Review Staff — known as the think tank — said Lord Rothschild made a "major contribution to our national affairs".

Lord Rothschild "proved to be a stimulating influence, bringing together a remarkable team from both inside and outside the home and

foreign civil service. He inspired them not only to work together but to approach each problem that I presented to them with a fresh mind, producing both depth of analysis and a variety of possible solutions."

In recent years, Lord Rothschild's name was linked to the Spycatcher affair.

Mr Peter Wright became close friends with Lord Rothschild, who worked in MI5 as a wartime bomb expert.

Mr Wright disclosed in 1986 that Lord Rothschild wrote to him in 1980 in Tasmania where he was living, asking him to help rebut allegations that he was a spy, following the exposure of his friend Anthony Blunt.

Obituary, page 14

Made-to-order bamboo bloom to save pandas

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Scientists have discovered how to make the bamboo bloom to order — a breakthrough that might have come just in time to rescue the world's declining population of pandas.

The discovery reported today has wide implications in the Far East where the plant is widely used for fodder and in construction as well as being the main diet for the panda. Its importance would be "difficult to exaggerate", according to Dr David Hanke, a senior scientist at Cambridge University.

The advance at the root of the excitement comes from an investigation into the growth of the bamboo plant. Its main varieties flower only once in a lifetime, which may follow a barren period of between 12 and 120 years.

Although the blooming is a rare event,

happening perhaps only twice a century, it is catastrophic for a full-grown giant panda, which can eat 33lb a day, because the flowering makes it inedible.

Moreover, the adult stems wither and the much-loved bear, which numbers about 1,000 in the wild and fewer than 20 in captivity, faces a famine for two to three years.

The descriptions by botanists of the unpredictable biological clock by which stands of bamboo burst into flower and set seed seem to verge almost on the mystical. Bamboo transplanted in parks and gardens thousands of miles from its natural habitat, apparently even as cuttings, flowers exactly at the same time as relatives in Asia.

Now a group of researchers working with Dr A F Mascarenhas, at the National Chemical Laboratory, in Pune, India, with help from scientists at Wye College, London University, have

shown in the laboratory greenhouse how to break this extraordinary cycle and make bamboo flower to order.

The results of the research are published in the latest issue of the journal *Nature*. The scientists describe a series of experiments in which they were studying ways of accelerating plant growth and flowering by feeding the soil with various combinations of nutrients.

It was after treatment with nutrient supplement containing a plant hormone and coconut milk that the plants burst into early flower and the researchers found they could repeat the process.

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Poll tax average '£85 higher than reasonable'

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

The average community charge for the coming year will be £363, £85 higher than the figure set by the Government as reasonable.

Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced the average in the Commons yesterday. It represents an overshoot on total local authority spending of some £3 billion above what the Government considers to be fair and reasonable.

The figure, based on budget returns from almost all local authorities, compares with the sum of £278 which Mr Patten said last November would be the average if local authorities adhered to Whitehall spending targets. They were

based on a total spending assessment for the country of £32.8 billion.

The new average was given amid growing anger, some from Tory MPs, over the Government's refusal to backdate the Budget poll tax concessions for pensioners to Scottish pensioners.

Mr Teddy Taylor, a senior Tory backbencher and former Scottish Office minister, said it "insulted" the people of Scotland in a speech he made in his Southend East constituency.

Mr John Major announced on Tuesday the doubling from £8,000 to £16,000 of the upper limit of savings people can have before they lose entitlement for rebates on poll tax and other social security benefits. However angry Scottish

Labour MPs interrupted the speech, demanding these concessions be made retrospective in Scotland, where the poll tax has operated for a year.

Mr Taylor said yesterday: "As a former Scottish MP I felt like climbing the walls of the Commons with embarrassment when the Chancellor announced he was making a major concession on poll tax rebates because of the concern expressed south of the border at the new tax."

"When a year ago a request was made to help the less well off in Scotland over the poll tax the Government said 'no'. Why is it when English people complain something is done immediately?"

"I can only describe this as an insult on the part of the Govern-

ment to the people of Scotland. It is an insult of a kind which we will ignore at our peril." However Mr Taylor admitted it would be near impossible to backdate the concession in Scotland.

"The right answer is to allocate an appropriate extra rate support grant to Scotland to take account of the anomaly so that every Scot would benefit," he said.

"The Scots should now knock on Mr Major's door to ask if something could be given in grant to Scotland to take account of the special circumstances there."

His call was echoed in the Commons Budget debate last night by Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, another former minister.

Mr Neil Kinnock said: "Justice demands that retrospective reim-

bursement is made to Scottish people with retirement savings who have been paying the poll tax for a full year."

Meanwhile a group of Scottish Labour backbenchers tabled a Commons motion demanding the resignation of Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, for his "failure" to secure the poll tax concession in Scotland.

Mr Donald Dewar, the shadow Scottish secretary, said thousands of Scots who should have got rebates this year had lost out. Mr Major must think again, or face a new level of bitterness and resentment from all Scots, he said.

"It would be monstrous if the small sweener has been able to offer was in place from day one in England and Wales while Scots

have been enmeshed in the injustice in the system for a full year."

Mr Major said the Opposition misunderstood his poll tax measure, which was not a one-off proposal. It was part of his effort to help savings - and the allowance also applied to housing benefit, he told a Treasury press conference.

It had never been normal to backdate such social security legislation and to do so this time would be almost impossible to administer, Mr Major said.

Once those people affected in Scotland realized the implications of the doubling of the savings ceiling, they would take a different view from critical commentators and politicians, he said.

Parliament, page 7

Community charge 'is main Tory vote-loser'

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

There is no doubt what has led voters to desert the Conservatives in droves at the Mid Staffordshire by-election.

Ninety-one per cent of those interviewed by MORI in the constituency since the Budget said they regarded the poll tax as one of the two or three most important issues.

The next significant issues were cited as interest rates (32 per cent), the National Health Service (27 per cent), education (10 per cent) and the Budget (10 per cent).

Ministers who have been to Mid Staffordshire to support the Conservative campaign admit that they have never seen a by-election so dominated by a single issue.

The voting intention figures of 55 per cent for Labour, 28 per cent Conservative, 9 per cent Liberal Democrat, 4 per cent SDP, 3 per cent for the Greens, and 1 per cent for Others represent a huge turnaround since the general election. Then the result was Conservative 28,644 (50.6 per cent), Labour 13,990 (24.7 per cent), Lib/Dem 13,114 (23.2 per cent), SDP 836 (1.5 per cent), Conservatives majority was 14,654 (25.9 per cent).

The MORI poll, carried out since the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget speech, suggests his efforts on Tuesday have done little or nothing to improve the Government's image, in spite of his concentration on political factors to the irritation of the City.

Asked if they thought Mr John Major's Budget proposals were good or bad for the country as a whole, 28 per

cent believed the economy would benefit, 23 per cent believed it would not gain and 49 per cent thought it would make no difference.

Asked how they thought they would fare personally as a result of the Budget, 18 per cent thought it was good for them, 24 per cent thought it would have a bad effect and 58 per cent believed its effect would be negligible.

The researchers asked respondents intending to vote Labour if they were using their vote mainly to support Mr Kinnock's party or as a protest against the Government.

Forty-two per cent said they were mainly supporting Labour and 40 per cent said they were using their vote mainly as a protest. A further 17 per cent said they were motivated equally by both points.

MORI also asked those who intended to vote how likely they were to consider voting for a different party at the general election. Twenty-five per cent said they were very or fairly likely to change.

The clear victory indicated for Labour in the by-election when polling starts today confirms a trend which began in last year's by-elections. Labour has only once achieved a Conservative-Labour swing of more than 14 per cent since the war.

MORI reinterviewed 910 respondents who had previously been interviewed during the campaign, 826 by telephone, 84 face to face, and a further 93 new respondents face to face. All interviews were conducted from March 20-21, 1990.

HOW RECENT POLLS HAVE SEEN MID STAFFORDSHIRE

Polling		Lab	Con	Lib/ Dem	SDP	Grn	Other
Feb 28-Mar 2	MORI S Times	50	35	5	4	4	1
Mar 9-10	NOP D Mail	55	30	9	3	3	1
Mar 14-15	MORI S Times	55	29	9	2	3	2
Mar 14-15	NRC Ind on Sun	58	28	9	2	4	1
Mar 21-22	MORI Times	55	28	9	4	3	3



Far from the hustings: Mrs Sylvia Heal, the Labour candidate in the Mid Staffordshire by-election, and her husband Keith take a woodland stroll.

Conservative gloom despite sweeteners

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent, Staffordshire

Mr Charles Prior, the Conservative candidate in the Mid Staffordshire by-election, yesterday spoke of "frustration" at his failure to shake the Labour defences.

His remarks came as Mr Kenneth Baker sought to play down the significance of today's poll for the Midlands seat - in a further indication that the Tories have few hopes of keeping their 14,650 majority.

This is despite minor sweeteners in the Budget which appear to have marginally favoured the Conservative cause.

Earlier in the campaign, Mr Baker said that the world was watching this contest to see if Britain would again choose socialism. Yesterday the by-election was simply about Mr Prior going to Westminster.

The culprits needed no introduction in Mr Baker's mind: high interest rates and the poll tax. The Government

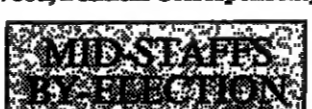
was "going through difficult times", Mr Baker said.

The Tory chairman also described Mrs Sylvia Heal, the Labour candidate, as a "phantom operating in a vacuum" - a more elegant variation on the "Barbie Doll" theme established by Mr Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, in earlier exchanges.

Mr Prior's more relaxed manner this week suggests he may already anticipate regaining the seat for his party at the next general election.

He said: "It is frustrating when you are faced with a candidate and a party that refuses to tell us what their policies are. But that's politics. I am not relying on negative tactics."

As befits the nephew of Lord Prior, the former Cabinet Minister, gentleman farmer, and leading "vet", Mr Prior is an old-style Tory, more a friendly laborer than a rottweiler on the hustings.



However, there are some in his camp who think the policy decision not to adopt more aggressive tactics has been a mistake.

Not that Mr Prior was admitting defeat. It would be "nip-and-tuck" when votes were counted in the small hours of tomorrow morning.

Mrs Heal who was joined by Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, was anxious to avoid a last-minute slip. Reporters protested at one attempt to end her morning press conference prematurely.

She was "somewhat optimistic" about her prospects, and concentrated her efforts on an appeal to her supporters to get out and vote. That was not to be taken as signalling a lack of confidence on her part, merely a warning against com-

placency, a real danger to Labour given its recent opinion poll lead of more than 20 points in the seat.

Mr Hattersley said Mid Staffordshire presented the electorate with a rare opportunity. "Voters here have an opportunity (for) themselves and the whole nation by ensuring that the poll tax - at least in its present form - is swept away by Tory Party panic. That is what is at stake tomorrow."

Mr Timothy Jones, the Social and Liberal Democrat candidate, could comfort himself with the thought that he has apparently won the race for third place, forging ahead of both the Greens and the SDP.

People who had voted Tory in the last Election spoke of their dismay over the Government's performance in the past couple of years.

Even those intending to vote Conservative were doing

so with little enthusiasm. Mrs Shirley Taylor-Hope, aged 44, who had just sold her hotel and restaurant business and was planning to open a nursery, was worried about "crippling" interest rates.

But she had a low opinion of Mr Neil Kinnock and had abandoned thoughts of voting Green after seeing two of their spokesmen on television putting forward "ridiculous ideas."

"Labour have no policies. They just deny everything the Conservative Party says without having positive ideas of their own."

Mr Prior's problem is that he has not been able to convey that message to a sufficient number of his party's former supporters.

1987 General Election: J. Hiddle (C), 28,644; C. St Hill (Lab), 13,990; T. Jones (Lib/Dem), 13,114; J. Bazeley (Ind C), 836. Map 14,654.

Airlines 'must pay for seats oversold'

Passengers caught out by airline overbooking should automatically be compensated up to the full price of an economy class ticket, the European Commission said yesterday.

Airlines often try to cover themselves for passengers who do not show up by selling extra tickets.

The commission wants Europe to adopt the American system of asking volunteers to give up their places before putting others off the aircraft. Compensation would be available to all who lost a place.

Passengers who wait up to two hours for the next flight should get at least 25 per cent of the economy class price, the commission suggests. For any longer delay, compensation would be 50 per cent, and a replacement ticket.

AMA post

The Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities has chosen as its new secretary Mr Rodney Brooke (David Walker writes). Mr Brooke, aged 50, resigned as chief executive of Westminster after falling out with Lady Porter, the council's Conservative leader.

Driver shot

The murder in Belfast yesterday of Mr William McClure, a Protestant driver, by gunmen of the Irish People's Liberation Organization, was the first in a possible series, security sources believe (Edward Gorman writes). Attacks by "loyalists" have left two Catholic men dead in two weeks.

Family killing

A man who murdered his newborn baby son and stabbed another infant son before killing himself on Tuesday may have done so because of overwork, Birmingham police said (Craig Seton writes). Mr Paul Garrattley, aged 27, was a self-employed roofing contractor in Sparkhill.

Thames safety

Strict regulations aimed at avoiding a repetition of the Marchioness riverboat disaster, in which 51 people died last August, will be in force on the Thames by the holiday season (David Sapped writes). The voluntary measures introduced after the accident will become statutory by Easter.

Dumbstruck

The chiming of Big Ben will be silent for the next three months as the clock undergoes essential repairs (Nigel Williamson writes). The chiming hammer arm is suffering from metal fatigue and is being replaced.

Driver jailed

A motorist who knocked down a woman who was eight months pregnant, causing her baby to be stillborn, was jailed for three months and fined £1 at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday (Geoff King writes). Mark Wenham, aged 25, admitted reckless driving and driving with excess alcohol.

Chil feared soci

A young man who was feared to be a sociopath was shot dead by police yesterday. The man, who was 21, was shot in the chest and died at the scene. Police said he was a member of a gang and was involved in a series of violent incidents. The shooting took place in a residential area. The man's name has not been released.



Police photograph of the young man who was shot dead.

More male university students drop out

Higher Education Reporter: University students who are male and who are from a lower social class are more likely to drop out of university than those who are female and from a higher social class. The study found that the drop-out rate for male students from a lower social class was 15 per cent, compared with 10 per cent for female students from the same background.

Research by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) found that the drop-out rate for male students from a lower social class was 15 per cent, compared with 10 per cent for female students from the same background. The study also found that the drop-out rate for male students from a higher social class was 10 per cent, compared with 5 per cent for female students from the same background.

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Langfc orange

The collapse of Lord Langford's remarkable collection of Victorian and Edwardian furniture and tapestries at the auction house of Christie's in London yesterday was a disaster for the collector. The collection, which had been assembled over a period of 20 years, was sold for a fraction of its estimated value. The auctioneer said that the collection was "disastrously misjudged" and that the prices were "completely out of line with the market."

GPs reject ballot on new contracts

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Representatives of family doctors voted narrowly yesterday against balloting general practitioners on whether to take disruptive action over their new, performance-related contract.

A special conference of local medical committees rejected by five votes - 153 to 148 - a motion to ballot Britain's 33,000 GPs on sanctions against the contract, which comes into effect on April 1.

The conference also rejected a ballot to find out whether GPs were prepared to resign from the National Health Service if the new contracts were not withdrawn.

The contracts link pay to the ability to attract new patients and meet screening

targets. GPs rejected the contract by three to one in a ballot last September. Yesterday, however, the conference bowed to arguments from Dr Michael Wilson, the chairman of the General Medical Services Committee.

"Resignation would damage the NHS, inflict hardship on many of our colleagues and deprive many of our patients of medical services," he said.

Instead, the conference gave the committee backing to continue its low-key campaign, with the hope of fine-tuning the terms over the next few months. All GPs are to be sent a red card to express their views on how the contract was working, and surveys are to be held later this year.

Charities benefit from big donations

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

The National Trust, the University of Oxford and the national theatre and opera companies are likely to benefit most from the Budget's proposals for tax relief on gifts to charity.

But so might some of the less-applauded organizations on the Charity Commission's list, including bodies associated with the Unification Church (the Moonies).

Benefit from the Budget will depend on how much of its income a charity gets in single, substantial donations compared with small amounts raised in appeals to the public. From October, gifts worth more than £600 - up to a maximum of £5 million per donor each year - will qualify

for tax relief. The Chancellor said relief was not being given to smaller donations for fear of undermining existing schemes.

Therefore, the charities which receive larger sums look best placed to benefit, and these include the national arts companies which have established themselves as recipients of substantial gifts from business donors.

For example, the National Trust usually receives two to three "major gifts" a week, while the Spastics Society receives a gift valued at £1,000 or more about once every three weeks.

Leading article, page 13
Letters, page 15

System is revised after CPS blunder

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

New procedures have been introduced to avoid a repetition of the Crown Prosecution Service blunder on Saturday when 16 defendants walked free after the CPS lawyer failed to turn up.

The procedures, the result of a preliminary inquiry, were announced yesterday by Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, Attorney General, to the Commons home affairs committee.

Sir Patrick said the incident, which occurred when a lawyer acting as an agent for the CPS failed to cover a court hearing at Brent, west London, was "extremely regrettable". Some of the defendants have been recharged.

The Attorney General said that in future all agent lawyers needed for court work would be "duly booked and the booking confirmed in writing". There would also be contingency arrangements for when the booked lawyer, "for whatever reason failed to attend".

The CPS director for field operations had circulated all areas in England and Wales requiring them to put such procedures in place.

Nine per cent of general surgery patients in Croydon health authority have been waiting for over a year, not 98 per cent as reported on March 8. The figure applies to the year ending March 31, 1989.

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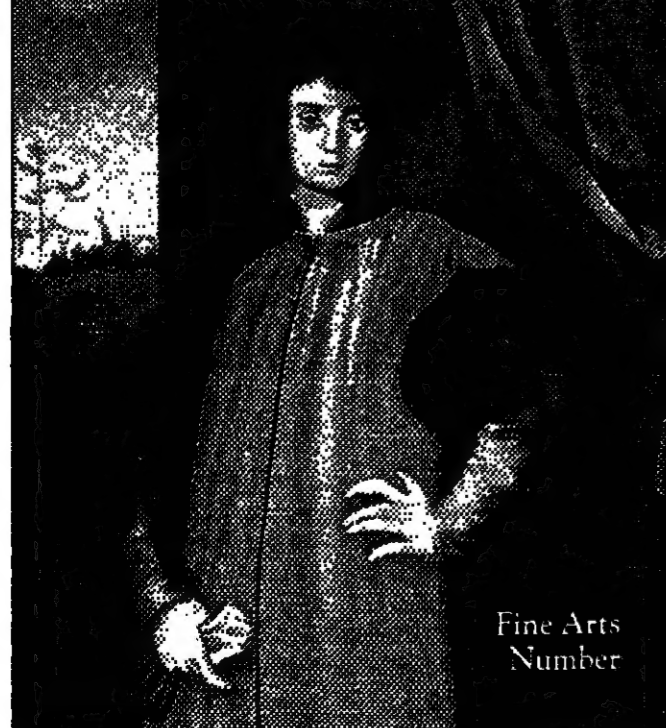
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Fine Arts Number COUNTRY LIFE



Fine Arts Number

Gems from the National Gallery: what paintings can say about jewels

Young British painters: why now is the time to collect them
Ducal splendour: the Sutherland portraits at Dunrobin
Restoring one of the Country's greatest sculpture galleries
Why Edinburgh's new medal collection was such a shrewd buy

Plus the usual informed coverage of gardens, wildlife, sport, architecture, collecting, the countryside, farming, fashion and property.

COUNTRY LIFE
EVERY THURSDAY

Child sex link feared over bogus social workers

By Peter Davenport

A team of 12 detectives yesterday began to investigate a series of incidents in which bogus social workers have examined children for sexual abuse and, on at least one occasion, tried to remove youngsters from their home claiming to have court warrants to take them into care.

Senior police officers believe the incidents may be part of a determined attempt to steal children, who might then be subjected to much more serious offences.

The decision to set up the special investigation unit was taken by South Yorkshire Police after seven separate incidents in the area since January 30. Officers have already contacted other forces and the Home Office computer system for large inquiries. Holmes, has been brought in to use.

Yesterday the officer in charge of the inquiry, Det Supt David Foss, said: "These people may gain some sort of perverse sexual pleasure out of these examinations of naked

children or it could be part of a determined effort to steal a child."

Police said they were treating all seven incidents as connected and that at least two women and one man were involved. Three photofit pictures of women based on descriptions given by parents were also issued.

The first incident was on January 30 at Park Hill Flats in Sheffield when two women posing as social workers examined two young children in front of their mother after asking them to undress completely.

On February 5 one woman returned with a man, saying they had warrants to take the children into care. The mother challenged the couple, who then left.

On February 1 at Lawrence Court, Swinton, a man called at a house and asked to examine a boy aged three. His mother threatened to call the police and he left.

On February 8, on the Atherton North Estate at

Barnsley, a boy aged three was examined by a woman claiming to be a social worker. She produced an identity card with a photograph which did not resemble her.

On February 9, at Birdwell, near Barnsley, and again on February 13 at Wigbourn, Sheffield, a woman was reported asking about children.

The latest incident occurred last Friday at Eastwood, Rotherham, when two women asked to examine a boy aged one, saying they had reports he had been sexually or physically abused. The boy was undressed and his genitalia examined.

Det Supt Foss said that those involved in the incidents had gone to great lengths to convince people they were genuine. On each occasion they were soberly dressed, carried briefcases and made notes on clipboards.

He appealed for anyone who had received similar visits to contact police immediately and warned all parents to make stringent checks on the identity of any visitors claiming to be social workers or representing child care agencies.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children said yesterday that in some incidents those involved had posed as its officials.

A spokeswoman said all members of its 66 child protection teams carried official identity cards with photographs. Anyone in any doubt should contact the society's local office before allowing anyone into their home.



Police photofit pictures of two women they are seeking.



More male university students drop out

By Sam Kiley

Higher Education Reporter

Universities, notably Oxford and Cambridge, are coming under increasing pressure to boost the numbers of women they admit. The latest statistics show that men are more likely to fail or drop out of their courses than women.

Results from the Universities Statistical Record show that in 1988 13.8 per cent of men, aged under 21, failed or dropped out compared to 9.9 per cent of women in the same group. Women make up just under 40 per cent of the undergraduate population while at Cambridge they form 36 per cent and at Oxford 37 per cent.

The statistics also show that nearly a fifth of mature students — who are over 21 when they start college — fail to complete their degrees.

Although the pure sciences have traditionally been dominated by men, 14.2 per cent of students of the traditional age drop out, compared with 9.7 per cent of women.

Mature students tend to steer clear of the sciences because they find it difficult to catch up on factual knowledge missed since school. A quarter of men leave or fail, compared with 19.4 per cent of women.

Miss Maeve Sherlock, president of the National Union of Students, yesterday welcomed the news.

"Women have to battle to get to university in the first place. They show the ability to get through the courses either because they are brighter or because they are more determined than men," she said.

The mature students' union said that older students drop out and fail more often than younger undergraduates because of financial problems, family commitments and because they have fallen behind in studies.

Public funding for British arts 'lowest in West'

By Ruth Gledhill

Public arts funding in Britain is lower than in nearly all other main Western countries, according to a report to be published soon.

Central and local government spending on the arts was second lowest only to the United States, the report says after comparing public spending on the arts in seven countries.

Canada, West Germany, France, The Netherlands and Sweden spent more, the report, *Cultural Trends*, by the Policy Studies Institute, says.

The institute yesterday praised Mr John Major's tax concessions in his Budget on Tuesday on charitable donations to the arts as a step forward in encouraging private investment.

The report, to be published next month, discloses that as a proportion of gross domestic product, Sweden spent most, 0.34 per cent. The Netherlands was close behind at 0.23 per cent; the United Kingdom spent 0.14 per cent of its GDP on the arts and the US 0.02 per cent.

Mr Robert Hutchison, a research fellow at the institute, a leading social and economic research body, said: "For historical reasons, arts funding in Britain was more centralized than elsewhere." The report compares indirect forms of support, such as tax relief, "in Britain up to now this has been pretty low in terms of contributions to the arts. The Budget will probably help a lot."

The report comes in the midst of financial troubles throughout Britain's national and provincial arts institutions.

The South Bank centre has reduced the number and scale of promotions for this and next year to cut its £1 million deficit by £300,000. One key

event to go was an exhibition on art and the First World War.

The board of Royal Opera House is meeting next Thursday in an attempt to find a way of coping with its £3 million deficit.

The English National Opera will have a £500,000 deficit by the end of this financial year and is existing precariously, in spite of severe cost-cutting and implementing all the recommendations of an efficiency study.

The English National Ballet narrowly escaped closure when its local authority grant was cut from £1.2 million to £100,000. The Arts Council stepped in to cover the shortfall and Ladbroke's is sponsoring a fund-raising gala at the Albert Hall in London next Tuesday.

But the biggest shock to affect the arts world this year was the announcement by the Royal Shakespeare Company that it is to close its two London theatres at the Barbican for four months.

Mr Terry Hands, artistic director, said: "Britain has never adequately subsidized its arts in comparison with the rest of Europe."

In Sheffield, the city council is faced with cutting almost £3 million in capital expenditure in services to comply with government limits to accept a £4 million EC grant to help finance a refurbishment of the 1890 Lyceum theatre.

Last night Mr Mark Fisher, Labour spokesman on the arts, said: "This report says a great deal about how this government values culture. Arts are not an optional extra, they are an integral part of our social life."

Cultural Trends, Issue Five (Policy Studies Institute, 100 Park Village East, NW1 3SR; £9.95).

Langford's battle to build orangery jolts Victorians

By Ronald Faux

The collapse of Lord Langford's ramshackle conservatory at Bodryddan Hall near Rhuddlan in Clwyd was exercising the Victorian Society yesterday.

The gales that breached the sea walls at Towyn also reduced to a ruin the 115-year-old wood-and-glass structure which Lord Langford seeks to replace with an orangery in the style of Robert Nesfield, the Victorian architect who carried out works on the 17th-century pile, well known for its elegance, armour and a 3,000-year-old Egyptian mummy.

A public inquiry into the plans yesterday heard evidence that the changes should not be allowed and the conservatory should be properly restored in an identical style.

But Lord Langford's plans were supported by Rhuddlan Borough Council, by Cadw, the Welsh heritage society, and Lord Anglesey, chairman of the Historic Buildings Council for Wales.

Mr Peter Howell, chairman of the Victorian Society, said the idea of replacing the conservatory with an orangery was misguided.

He said the historical background to the building had not been professionally investigated.

Mr Jon James, conservation officer for Clwyd County Council, thought it a package deal bought from a catalogue and adapted to fit the situation against a screen wall on the south side of the hall.

"In an ideal world, had it not deteriorated beyond the

position where it was no longer economically viable to restore it, I would have thought it should be retained," he said.

The building had some intrinsic merit but was beyond economic restoration. The conservatory was not on the original plan for the hall, it was a second thought and never part of the hall design.

Miss Elizabeth Foulkes, an architect, reluctantly agreed that Lord Langford's conservatory, an elegant and interesting building, had reached the end of its useful life and any attempt to replicate it would result in a "loss of subtlety and innovation".

Mr Michael Parsons, the inquiry inspector, will report on the hearing to the Secretary of State for Wales.

Maestro misses Saint Laurent show

DENZIL MCNEELANCE



Metallic brocade jacket over balloon dress (left) sharing the catwalk with tartan skirts and feathered tam o'shanter.

The man was missing from the Yves Saint Laurent show here yesterday (Liz Smith writes from Paris). However, his presence hovered over models in fluttering chiffon patterned in an abstract patchwork of panther markings and was palpable throughout the colourful reprise of familiar Saint Laurent themes.

Yves Saint Laurent has been in hospital since last Saturday suffering from "overwhelming exhaustion".

In the usual scrum backstage Pierre Bergé, president of the fashion house, and Loulou de la Falaise, Saint Laurent's design assistant, fielded the compliments normally reserved for the maestro. Saint Laurent, temporarily sans Yves, served up a vibrant, ethnic collection that recalled the earlier peasant styles started by Saint Laurent in the 1970s. This time the colourfully braided and gold embroidered fitted jackets are buttoned in

gilt over a 1990s short sarong skirt that has a new swag to the front and a fashionable asymmetric drape.

If the swirl of tartan skirts and soft wide trousers, feathered velvet tam o'shanter and green and black fitted jackets piped in red and gold had not pinpointed the inspiration, a beguiling refrain from McCartney's "Mull of Kintyre" delivered the Highland theme.

Saunders 'lost trust of Guinness board'

Ernest Saunders was dismissed as chairman of Guinness without compensation when directors lost confidence and trust in him, a court was told yesterday.

Sir Norman Macfarlane, who replaced him as chairman, told Southwark Crown Court that Mr Saunders' position was untenable. Auditors found irregular payments in Guinness accounts which gave weight to allegations made by Mr Olivier Roux, the company's former finance director, that illegal payments had been paid during Guinness's £2.7 billion Distillers takeover.

Sir Norman said Mr Saunders was dismissed on January 14, 1987, five days after he had agreed to step aside, having been promised his full pay and help to clear his name.

However, the board overturned the recommendation. Sir Norman said directors had lost confidence and trust in Mr Saunders, whom it considered to have been responsible for substantial actions without telling the board.

Sir Norman said Mr Saunders had twice denied that the DTI inquiry had anything to do with the bid for Distillers; and Sir Norman said he was particularly concerned about a \$100 million investment in Mr Ivan Boesky's American investment company.

On January 6 the contents of the Roux letter, implicating Mr Saunders, became known. Sir Norman said he called for the suspension of both Mr Saunders and Mr Roux. "The two most important people in the company took totally opposed points of view. There was no way the board could decide which was truthful."

Mr Saunders, Gerald Ronson, chairman of Heron International; the stockbroker Anthony Parnes; and the financier Sir Jack Lyons deny 24 counts of theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act.

The trial continues today.

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Solicitors in fight back on house sales

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

More than 8,000 solicitors' firms in England and Wales yesterday took part in the national launch of a conveyancing scheme devised by the Law Society to make house sales quicker and simpler.

Backed by a £250,000 marketing campaign, the most ambitious undertaken by the Law Society, the scheme is aimed at reinforcing the strengths of solicitors in the increasingly competitive house-buying market.

It will also revolutionize traditional house-buying procedures, shifting much of the work in the conveyancing transaction from the house-buyer to the house-seller.

Mr John Hayes, secretary general of the Law Society, said: "This gives solicitors the appropriate role in conveyancing in the 21st century."

The scheme, called TransAction, was the first step to ensure solicitors "beat the competition" and that they were the predominant source of advice.

Solicitors who have joined the scheme will undertake a standardized and "jargon-free" procedure for buying and selling houses.

Mr Tony Gilling, the Law Society council member promoting the scheme, said it was a "major modification" in conveyancing procedures.

When TransAction is used the seller's solicitor will put together all standard information, including the local authority search, which the seller will pay for. The validity of the search will be guaranteed for up to six months.

Sellers will draw up a statement of all fixtures and fittings to be included. Standard forms of contract and conditions of sale will be approved by Clarity, the lawyers' campaign for plain English.

Clients will receive an information guide and file telling them what is being done at every stage, including an estimate of costs. Sellers will collect all legal information at the start of the process. First-time buyers could clinch a deal "almost immediately", Mr Gilling said. Time saved could be as much as two months, the time taken by some councils to process searches.

The scheme, which is being promoted in cinemas, post offices and in the press, has been well received by solicitors. It was criticized however by the Society of Licensed Conveyancers, which said it would not save time. Many of the procedures were already used by conveyancers, it said.

Mr Michael Joseph, author of *The Conveyancing Fraud*, said the house transfer system could be simplified so that solicitors need not be involved at all. A consumer helpline to contact solicitors offering TransAction is 0800 800 464.

House for sale with vested interest



The Rev Ian Gooding and Mr Kemp outside Church Farmhouse, where the rector has the ancient right of its use as a vestry.

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Church Farmhouse in the village of Dale Abbey, Derbyshire, is a four-bedroomed semi-detached residence — but no ordinary semi. Its other half is the local church, and under a right dating to the 12th century the rector has the use of its sitting room as a vestry.

The Grade I listed house, the only one in the area, looks on to the churchyard, while the back of the church is in the house garden and a door connects the two parts of the building. Although it is bricked up, the owners can hear the services through the wall. The rector, the

Rev Ian Gooding, said yesterday that the situation had always been accepted by the occupants. "There are various conditions attached, including my right to use the sitting room to change for services."

Church Farmhouse is now for sale at £220,000 and the new owner must be prepared for 10,000 tourists a year visiting the church and the ruins near by of a 12th-century abbey. There is also a hermit's cave in the garden.

Mr John Kemp, the present owner of the house, said: "I have had to eject a few people I have found camping in the cave." He said that whoever bought the

property would have an exceptional, pretty home full of historic interest. His wife, Margaret, added that it was a lovely place to live in despite the odd arrangement. "It has never bothered us and we do not expect it will upset the next owners."

Before the Kemps bought their part of the building it was traditionally the home of the church verger, caretaker and keyholder. It was only an accident of history, after the whole estate, including the building, was sold off, that it became possible for a private buyer to move in. Mr Gooding hopes the new buyer might return it for its former purpose.

Pay equality ruling brings new dilemma to employers

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Britain's employers, facing huge and potentially inflationary wage increases for women demanding equal pay for work of equal value, are ruing the day when Miss Julie Hayward joined Cammell Laird shipyard, Birkenhead, Merseyside, as a cook.

The legal precedent she set of equal pay for work of equal value means employers are now confronted with the dilemma of having to treat women equally while facing the wrath of men whose differentials and time-honoured status as "bread winners" is under threat.

This week's decision by Marks & Spencer to give its 44,000 sales assistants, mainly women, a 26 per cent pay rise over three years while freezing the wages of 3,000 warehouse staff, mainly men, paves the way for a battle of the sexes which could harm labour relations.

Yesterday M&S warehousemen at Derby who, like their colleagues, have been given only a one-off £500 payment, staged a one-day protest strike. The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (Usdaw) meanwhile said it had been inundated with complaints.

In a landmark legal decision almost two years ago, the Law Lords ruled that Miss Hayward's job was as important as that of males who were painters, joiners and thermal insulation engineers.

She was backed by the Equal Opportunities Commission and her union, the GMB, which warned that other employers could expect similar legal challenges.

Since then there have been a swathe of such cases brought before industrial tribunals.

Although Marks & Spencer denies its award was influenced by equal pay legislation, its move came only a day after Sainsbury gave rises of between 8.5 per cent and 21 per cent to 60,000 retail staff after a job evaluation exercise designed to comply with the concept of equal pay for work of equal value.

Retail companies argue that while the jobs of women checkout assistants have become more complex, the jobs of warehouse staff have been

made easier through the use of better equipment.

The M&S award demonstrates that employers are aware that unions and individuals are willing to use the 1970 amendment to the 1970 Equal Pay Act, which allowed for equal pay for work of equal value, and which was virtually forced on the Government by the European Commission.

Mr Bill Connor, deputy general secretary of Usdaw, which has been in the forefront of the equal pay campaign, called on M&S, a largely non-unionized company, to meet for talks. Fair pay, he said, should not be achieved at the expense of freezing the wages of employees who happened to be men.

Usdaw has dropped an equal pay test case against Sainsbury's after taking part in a job evaluation exercise, although Mr Garfield Davies, general secretary, has warned other high street employers to expect action against them if they refuse to review pay structures.

Several employers in the financial sector have begun job evaluation exercises after an industrial tribunal claim by six secretaries and typists at Lloyds Bank seeking equal pay to senior male messengers. The bank is appealing against a first tribunal decision in the women's favour.

Yesterday, following the M&S and Sainsbury's awards, Tesco managers were meeting Usdaw negotiators to discuss pay rises for the company's 79,000 staff. Safeway is expected to announce pay increases for its staff in the next few weeks.

● The Banking, Insurance and Finance Union yesterday responded quickly to the Government's new tax concessions for working mothers by drawing up claims for hundreds of workplace nurseries for its 170,000 members. (Ray Clancy writes).

The union, which has been campaigning for several years for nurseries and career breaks for women starting a family, said the banks, building societies and financial organizations should now speed up the introduction of crèches. They are to no longer be a taxable benefit.

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NOBODY DOES IT BETTER

Timman in heroic fight with Karpov

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

The Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman is fighting for survival in his world chess qualifying final in Kuala Lumpur against Anatoly Karpov, the Soviet Union's former world champion.

The seventh game in the best of 12 series, played last night, was the most exciting. Although it ended in a draw after 43 moves, Timman made heroic efforts to win; on the 22nd move, in a fearfully complex position, he missed the chance to sacrifice a rook for his opponent's knight, which would probably have given him a decisive attack.

After this draw Karpov has 4½ points and Timman, who has not won a game, 2½. Karpov needs two more points to qualify for a renewed world championship challenge against Garry Kasparov later this year.

According to Kasparov, the challenge match is scheduled to have its first half in New York, starting in October, and the second half in Lyons in November.

Kasparov said all difficulties had been cleared away since Senior Florencio Campomanes, president of the World Chess Federation and Kasparov's bitter rival for control of world chess, signed an agreement in Paris on Tuesday

which allows for the championship to be organized by a neutral committee.

Since 1948 such matches have been organized solely by the World Chess Federation, but the neutral committee will include members of Kasparov's rival Grandmaster Association.

With vast revenues in prize money and television contracts at stake (the prize fund is likely to be at least \$2 million) the division of spoils between the ruling body and the grandmasters represents an important step for the grandmasters' organization.

The moves from the seventh game in Kuala Lumpur were (Timman playing white).

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	e5	23 bxc3	Qxd5
2 Nf3	Nc6	24 Rxe5	Qb4
3 Bb5	a6	25 Bc2	Ng5
4 Qe2	Nf6	26 Bc2	Qc5
5 O-O	Be7	27 Rxe5	Qxe5
6 Re1	B5	28 Bxd5	N5
7 Bc3	e6	29 Na3	N4
8 c3	O-O	30 Bxc6	Qxc6
9 Bc2	Be7	31 Bg3	N6
10 d4	Be6	32 Re5	Qc4
11 Nbd2	Bf8	33 Qd2	Qb3
12 a4	Qd7	34 Kf2	Qb1
13 a5	exd5	35 Qe1	Qe1
14 Rxe5	Rxe5	36 Bxh1	Bd4
15 d5	Ne7	37 Bg3	Bc5
16 Nf1	h6	38 Bf1	Kf6
17 Ng3	g6	39 g4	fxg4
18 dxc5	Bxc5	40 f4	g5
19 Nf2	g5	41 Kf2	Kd7
20 Nf5	Nf4	42 Bg5	Kc6
21 Ng4	Qf5	43 Nc4	Bxb4
22 f3	Nxc3		Draw

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Pay equality
uling brings
ew dilemma
employers

MP wants 'dirty beach' signs to warn sea bathers

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

Warning signs should be placed on British beaches that breach the European Commission's bathing water standards, the Government was told yesterday.

It could lead to signs appearing in 97 of the 401 main coastal resorts which do not come up to the standard.

Sir Hugh Rossi, chairman of the Commons environment committee, demanded government action because of the evidence of health hazards from sewage discharges.

Local authorities, he said, have been reluctant to warn bathers of the dangers for fear of damaging tourist trade.

The diseases range from stomach upsets, sore eyes and throats to polio and hepatitis. Officials and scientists have not ruled out the remote risk of contracting the Aids virus from direct contact with sewage in sea water.

The committee's warning comes in the wake of an international study from the UN Environment Programme on Monday which found an increase in the threat to public and marine life from sewage and other pollutants in coastal waters worldwide. The cross-

party House of Commons committee has extended its investigation into pollution of beaches by two months to gather new evidence on the health hazards.

In a dispute with the committee, Mr Dennis Roberts, a Department of the Environment official, emphasized the administrative difficulties in putting up signs and the defects in the EC's bathing water directive.

But after pressure from the committee, Mr Roberts agreed to hold an urgent meeting with the Department of Health to decide how to fulfil the committee's demand for signs similar to those on many continental beaches.

Mr Roberts argued that the decision to put up signs is for local authorities and the department had no policy, but discussions were under way with the National Rivers Authority.

Sir Hugh told him: "The great British public is very impatient with administrative difficulties being put to them as an excuse for no action."

Sir Hugh also cited the case of a family doctor on the Blackpool coast, who told the

committee that for years his patients had complained of respiratory and other ailments during certain weather conditions in which heavy spray blown in from the coastal sewage slick hit the town.

Mr David Trippier, the environment minister, announced in January that 97 of Britain's main beaches still failed EC standards last year, representing 24 per cent of all identified bathing waters.

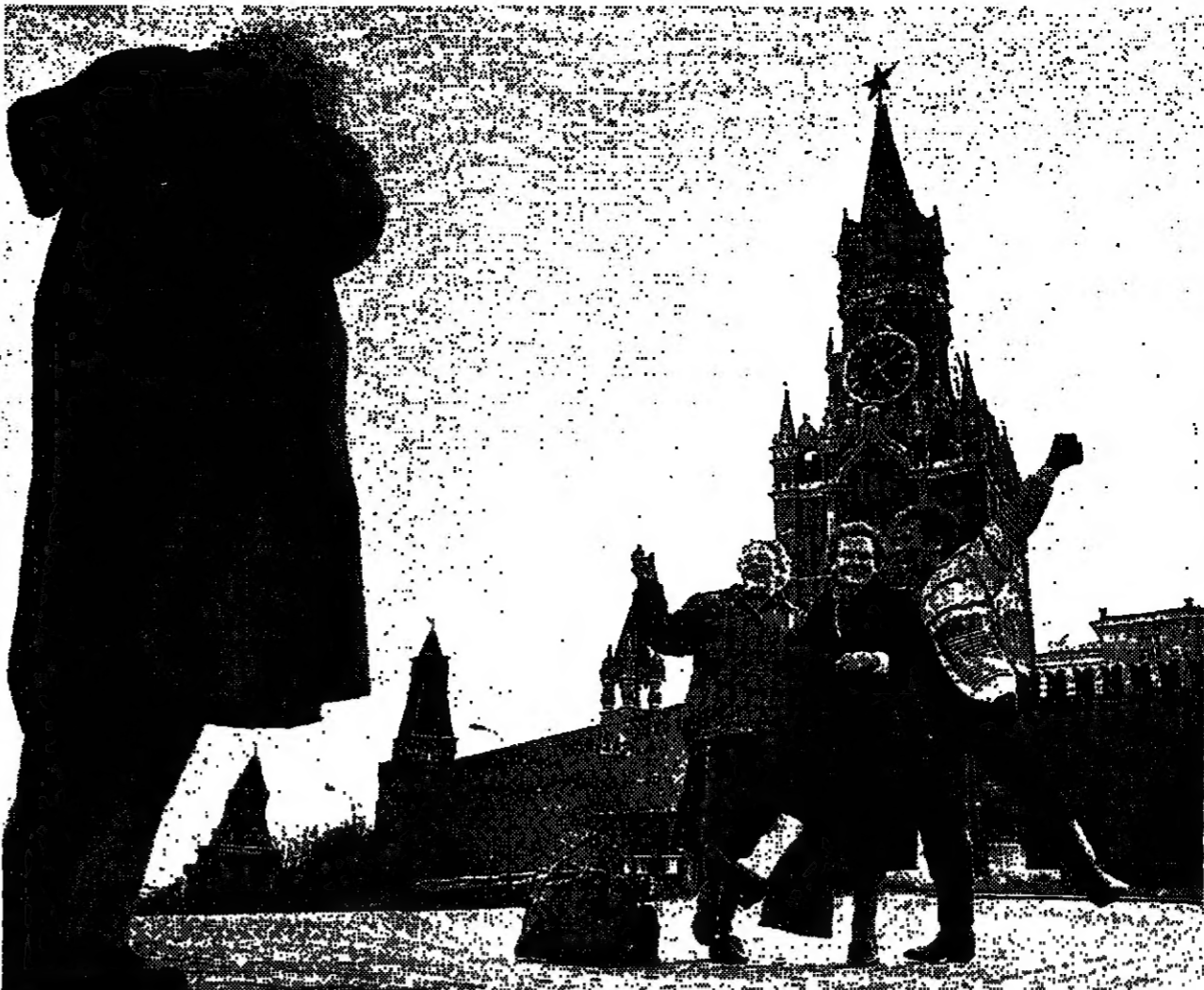
They included Blackpool; Lymington and Combe Martin, Devon; East Looe, Cornwall; Lyme Regis, Dorset; Ventnor, Bembridge and Cowes on the Isle of Wight; Hove, East Sussex; the Kentish beaches of Folkestone, Ramsgate and Herne Bay; and Cromer, Cleethorpes and Whitby on the East Coast.

Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, has announced a £3 billion investment to modernize sewage treatment and disposal.

● An inquiry started last night after 100 gallons of oil were spilled while being loaded on a tanker at Esso's Fawley refinery in Hampshire. Some oil was washed ashore at Warsash.

Impromptu knees-up in Red Square

MARC ASPLAND



Three British tourists treating bemused Russians to an impromptu knees-up in Red Square yesterday. Almost 400 Britons flew from Gatwick to Moscow for a four-hour coach tour of the Soviet capital, organized by Euro Express of Crawley, West Sussex. The company ran similar visits to East Berlin last year and is planning more trips to Moscow from Manchester and Gatwick airports. Mrs May Lye, left, Mrs Dorothy Trousdale and Mrs Yvonne Evans paid £199 each for the tour.

Impact of forestry to be examined

By Kerry Gill

A study of the environmental impact of forestry throughout Britain is to be initiated later this year, the Forestry Industry Committee of Great Britain announced in Edinburgh yesterday.

Mr Craig Campbell, of the committee, said that the move was in response to increasing concern. Admitting that the industry had "raised the hackles" of environmentalists, particularly over conifer planting in Calthness and Sutherland, he emphasized that planters themselves were now doing all they could to meet criticisms.

New policies, he said, could create mixed species planting, leaving natural areas for indigenous wildlife.

Agreement in principle for the FICGB study was arrived at last week. The body to carry out the nationwide assessment will be appointed shortly.

However, Mr Sandy Murray, secretary of Timber Growers UK, said that increased tree planting was vital to meet the needs of the processing industries.

Areas being planted in Britain, he said, had fallen from a high point of 28,000 hectares a few years ago to 13,000. This year, the figure was likely to be as low as 10,000 hectares.

Patten heading for new 'green' dispute with EC

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, looks likely to be involved in a renewed clash with environment ministers from northern Europe today when the European Community attempts in Brussels to establish a common position on measures to combat the greenhouse effect.

The move, which is likely to be backed by The Netherlands, West Germany, Denmark and France, would commit member states to no further increases in their emissions of the principal "greenhouse gas", carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is produced by coal-fired power stations and motor vehicles.

However it will not be supported by Britain and as a result Mr Patten, who at the recent North Sea Conference in The Hague was subjected to a barrage of criticism over dumping of industrial waste and sewage sludge at sea, may once more be in the firing line.

The United Kingdom regards the Brussels initiative as premature as the international community is already fully engaged in an assessment of the greenhouse effect through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which will announce its conclusions at the end of August.

On the basis of these findings the World Climate Conference, which follows in Geneva in November, will attempt to draw up a world-wide plan of action to combat global warming.

Britain prefers to wait for the full IPCC report before deciding precisely on what action to take, rather than be "bounced" into a sudden commitment.

Some EC member states, however, and a number of environmental pressure groups, feel that Europe has an opportunity to take a world lead.

In the continuing IPCC negotiations the Bush admin-

istration in the US, in particular, is showing reluctance to come to grips with the problem.

At a conference in Noordwijk in Holland last November, Britain and the other EC countries committed themselves to stabilizing their emissions of CO₂ by the year 2000. The United States, Japan and the Soviet Union refused to accept the date and said only that emissions should be stabilized "as soon as possible".

Although Britain agreed to 2000, there was no mention in the final Noordwijk declaration of the key question of what baseline level for stabilization should be set.

The Dutch and French pushed hard for stabilization at present levels, meaning there should be no more growth of carbon dioxide emissions, a much tougher programme of energy conservation for industry and motor vehicles than if stabilization were to take place at the level reached in 10 years' time.

This question is back on the table and likely to be the prime source of disagreement.

The draft resolution which ministers are being asked to agree calls for "a clear commitment by industrialized countries to stabilize their CO₂ emissions by the year 2000".

It goes on: "Such stabilization should be, in principle, at the present level."

The Dutch are likely to back it strongly and support is likely to be forthcoming from West Germany, France and Denmark, whose environment minister, Mrs Lone Dybkjaer, was Mr Patten's sternest critic at the North Sea conference.

The Environment White Paper Mr Patten is preparing for the autumn will tackle carbon dioxide emissions, but it was being made clear in Whitehall yesterday that there was no question of Mr Patten signing today's EC initiative.

Cornish parishes vote on sewage

More than 15,000 people go to the polls today in a last-minute effort to halt plans to dump raw sewage off the coast of Cornwall. They are the voters of the three parishes that ring St Ives Bay: St Ives, Hayle, Gwinear-Gwithian.

South West Water wants to build a £63 million pipeline to take sewage from the Penzance area, pump it across the country and into the sea off the north coast at St Ives Bay.

It could be the last new long sea outfall pipe for untreated sewage before the European Commission outlaws similar schemes.

Although Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, had said in January that he was minded to approve the project, his recent announcement to ban sewage dumping in the North Sea by 1998 had raised hopes of a U-turn. The Department of the Environment has said a final decision was "imminent".

Nearly 3,000 people have written letters of protest. Now, voters from the three parishes have successfully petitioned for a referendum, although the result will not be binding. The pipeline will take all the

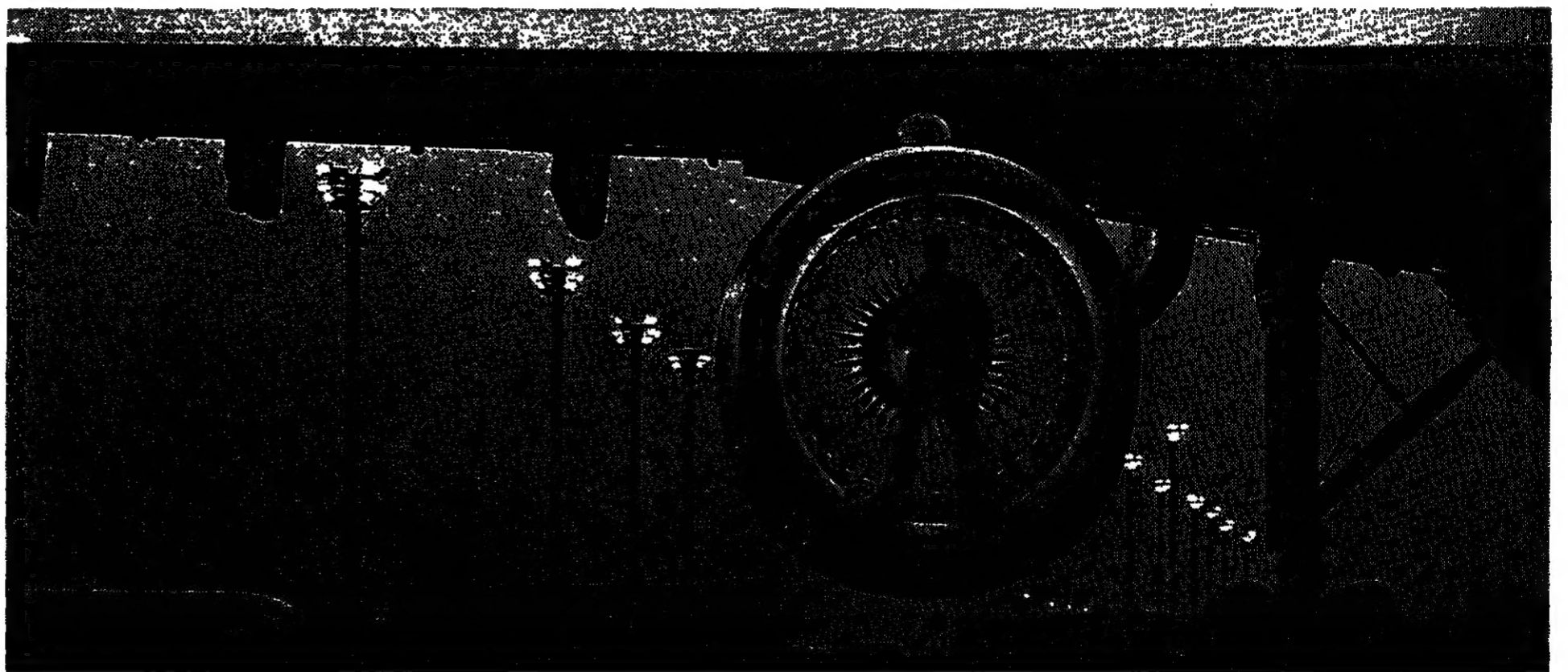
sewage from Penzance, Marazion, Newlyn and Moushole and pump it across the peninsula to Gwithian. It will be put through a mesh screen and dumped one and a half miles off Godrevy Point, at the rate of 2,000 litres a second.

The new scheme will help to clean the badly polluted beaches of Mount's Bay. However, north coast residents fear their own award-winning bathing waters could be ruined. "This scheme is all about robbing Peter to pay Paul and there are many people who are very unhappy about it," Mr John Pollard, a local teacher who chairs the St Ives Bay Sewage Action Committee, said.

South West Water believes that building an inland treatment works could add more than £20 million to the cost of the scheme. "The customer will have to pay," Mr Bob Baty, an engineering director, said.

Mr Alan Pearce, the Department of the Environment's chief water pollution inspector, is recommending that the scheme be approved: "The sea has a very substantial capacity to absorb and purify sewage."

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County's parents press for teacher pay rise of £3,000

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

The Home Counties will suffer teacher shortages as severe as the worst affected areas of east London by next year if action is not taken to improve pay, ministers were told yesterday.

A survey by parents in Surrey found the number of unfilled teaching vacancies in the county had more than trebled in 18 months and the shortage is expected to reach the same level as parts of east London by January.

In Tower Hamlets, the area with the most vacancies in the country, more than 300 children have been unable to start school since September because there are not enough teachers.

Hundreds more pupils are sent home daily because schools depend on large numbers of part-time staff, some children aged only five have had as many as three class teachers in one term.

The survey of 231 schools, carried out by the Surrey Federation of Parent Teacher Associations, showed the number of vacant posts in the county was two and a half times higher than the national average. A fifth of all teachers in Surrey changed jobs last year - 60 per cent more than the national figure - and the highest turnover rate was in the rural south-west of the county.

The report called for a pay

increase of £3,000 a year on top of the two-stage 8.3 per cent deal agreed by the Government last month to encourage staff to stay in the county.

The survey also showed that, for the first time, English had joined mathematics, science and foreign languages as a subject for which schools had difficulty in recruiting staff. It also raised fears that recruitment problems in primary schools would become more acute because one in three teachers was due to retire in the next decade.

The number of teaching posts vacant in the county has risen from 70 in January 1988 to 252 by last October. The researchers said there would be no full-time teachers left in Surrey schools by 1996 if the trend continued.

Primary schools were worst affected, with 5.1 per cent of teaching posts vacant compared with a national average of 1.9 per cent. In secondary schools 2.9 per cent of teaching jobs were unfilled.

The report said the concentration of shortages in key National Curriculum subjects confirmed parental fears that children were being taught by staff not qualified in the subject.

The survey concluded that the high cost of living in Surrey, where house prices remain among the highest in Britain, was the principal

factor behind the staffing problems.

A spokesman for the National Union of Teachers (NUT) said: "That Surrey should be facing the same problems as Tower Hamlets is shocking. I only hope that the Deputy Prime Minister and the chairman of the Conservative Party, who both have constituencies in the county, will encourage the Government to take action."

The publication of the Surrey survey coincided with the release of details of teacher shortages in Haringey, north London. The study found 76 primary and 35 secondary school classes had no permanent teacher. Two-thirds of the primary classes and a third of those affected in secondary schools were being taught by part-time casual staff who changed almost daily.

Of those taught by full-time staff, 11 primary classes had been taught by three or more teachers in the past year. In nine primary schools more than half of the staff had resigned over same period.

Miss Jane Chan, president of the Haringey branch of the NUT, which carried out the survey, said: "This appalling situation is not unique to Haringey. Throughout the country teachers have escaped from our profession, which is no longer valued in terms of pay or working conditions."



A sentry in Second World War uniform at the entrance to one of the tunnels yesterday.

Dover's warren of secret tunnels opens to public

By Paul Wilkinson

When Britain faced its darkest hour, the cliffs under Dover Castle were the place Winston Churchill would often visit; his cigar doubtless glowing in the sharp Channel wind and his gaze firmly out to sea, watching for the Germans only 20 miles away on the French coast.

The White Cliffs of Dover have been Britain's front line many times, and defences set up during three of her bleakest moments are now being opened for public view.

A warren of tunnels, originally hewn from the chalk cliffs as gun emplacements when Napoleon threatened to invade, found new life in 1939 when Hitler threatened England.

They were extended to make a bomb-proof military headquarters 200ft beneath the cliff-top. In 1940 they became the nerve centre of Operation Dynamo, which turned defeat into victory, lifting 337,000 Allied troops from the Dunkirk beaches.

A quarter of a century later at the height of the Cold War the tunnels were converted, this time into a bunker for a regional seat of government if a nuclear war broke out.

Although local people have known about the maze of burrowings, their existence was a state secret until only two years ago when the Government finally moved out of the 3.5 miles of tunnel beneath Dover Castle and presented the dark remains to English Heritage. It has spent almost

£250,000 removing tons of asbestos lining, installing lighting and setting up facilities for visitors.

The tunnels occupy three levels, codenamed Anne, Casemate and Dump. On May 14 Dame Vera Lynn will open the first stage of the restoration, Casemate, where 36-pounder cannons were positioned in seven brick-lined tunnels to batter Napoleon's invasion barges should they venture into the harbour 400ft below.

Mr Jack Lohman, the project co-ordinator, plans 50-minute guided tours through three periods of British history. Unlike present trends to recreate the past with tableaux, the tunnels will be left much as their last tenant, the Home Office, left them.

"I believe people are fed up with heritage presented as a cliché," Mr Lohman said. "We are just creating a safe environment for the public and letting them use their imagination."

One feature for visitors will be a terrace high over Dover Harbour, where three of the gun tunnels open to the sea.

Here Churchill was often wont to spend a couple of hours, listening to modern artillery shelling German positions on the French coast.

It was the fierce gun duels across the narrow streets that earned this point on the Kent coast its wartime nickname of Hellfire Corner. That has now been adopted as the title of a new tourist venue.

Planning 'must start' on charge for road users

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

A comprehensive system of electronic road pricing, in which motorists are charged for using congested roads, should be introduced in London by the mid-1990s, according to a report published yesterday.

Paying for Progress, by the Chartered Institute of Transport, says failure to begin planning road pricing now will mean accepting unnecessary increases in traffic congestion, and "billions of pounds worth of inefficiency in the national economy".

The anticipated increase in vehicle numbers from 22 million to 34 million by 2025, combined with growing awareness that large-scale road-building such as that undertaken in the 1960s and 1970s is no longer an option, means the introduction of road pricing to control congestion is simply a question of time, the report said.

The length of the national road network has increased by 5 per cent in the last decade and the motorway system has been extended by 33 per cent, although it still accounts for less than 1 per cent of all roads.

The road network has not, therefore, been expanding at the same rate as increases in traffic densities and it is expected to continue trailing behind, in spite of the recent expansion of the national road-building programme.

Although increased road capacity and improved traffic management would help reduce delays, they would not solve congestion "on their own", the report said.

The institute says drivers must be confronted with the full cost of the congestion they cause, if traffic flow is to be improved.

"Users of roads, like the users of any other valuable and limited resource, should pay all the costs arising from their use. Only then will the decisions on whether, when, where and how to travel be made correctly," the report said.

It said road pricing would "be entirely in line with the

move towards greater economic freedom: it will establish a market mechanism where hitherto one has been lacking". It would also produce significant environmental improvements.

The institute recommends two types of electronic road pricing: the automatic vehicle identification system which records vehicle movements and bills drivers for their use of roads; and a "smartcard" system, in which motorists buy cards similar to telephone cards that are inserted into meters inside their vehicles before they can drive.

"The most logical area for road pricing for London will extend out to the M25," the report said. The system could be set up for about £80 million, producing efficiency gains of about £400 million a year, and revenues of more than £600 million a year.

The Department of Transport welcomed the report as "an interesting contribution to the current debate on road pricing". However, a spokesman said: "It underplays some of electronic road pricing's practical problems, such as the lack of a proven technology, and the difficulties of enforcement."

Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, earlier ruled out the possibility of road pricing, pointing out that if 1 per cent of motorists evaded charges, it would result in millions of offences having to be investigated and prosecuted.



Mr Parkinson: Ruled out electronic road pricing.

Nurse is sent for trial

The unemployed nurse accused of kidnapping the newborn baby Alexandra Griffiths was sent in custody for trial at Southwark Crown Court, south London, by Horseferry Road magistrates yesterday.

Miss Janet Griffiths, aged 33, of The Old Police House, Sweeps Lane, Burford, Oxford, is charged with abducting the 36-hours-old child from St Thomas's Hospital, London, on January 11.

Drugs find

Customs officers at Ramsgate, Kent, yesterday discovered 220kg of cannabis worth £750,000 on a lorry which arrived from Dunkirk. The British driver was being questioned.

Bus order

A £12 million order for 50 double-deck Leyland buses has been signed by Citybus of Hong Kong, which has now ordered 103 in all.

Phone hoaxer

A hoaxer is telephoning parents in Prudhoe, Northumberland, claiming he has abducted their child from school.

Pensioner dies

Mr Harold Broadhead, aged 73, of Staveley, near Chesterfield, died in hospital after a collision with a cyclist. The rider, believed to be a boy aged 14, did not stop.

Hippies gather

More than 1,000 hippies and travellers arrived at Stonehenge, Wiltshire, yesterday to celebrate the Spring equinox. There were scuffles as they were asked to leave, but no arrests were made.

Bomb alert

A Second World War bomb, believed to contain mustard gas, has been uncovered by building work at Pocklington, North Humberdale.

Vandal patrol

West Hallam parish council, Derbyshire, has hired a private security firm for a two-month trial to try to deter vandals after a spate of attacks.

Cruellest year for animals

By Libby Jukes

The RSPCA yesterday reported its highest ever annual figures for animal cruelty.

Its inspectors received well over one million calls last year, and investigated nearly 83,000 complaints of cruelty. There was a 30 per cent increase in cruelty to cats and a 164 per cent increase in cruelty to farm animals.

Mr Gavin Grant, its campaigns director, described the statistics as "stark, depressing and horrifying".

Pointing out that dogs were the most frequent victims of abuse, Mr Grant renewed the RSPCA's call for a compulsory national registration and identification scheme to finance a network of dog wardens who would compile information on irresponsible owners and breeders.

Last year the RSPCA brought 2,026 successful pro-

secutions for cruelty, of which 1,131 concerned dogs.

The society is particularly concerned by a disturbing increase in cases involving breeds with a reputation for aggression, such as Rottweilers, Dobermanns and American pit bull terriers, victims of what Mr Richard Davies, chief superintendent of its inspectorate, called "the fashion for walking down the street with a powerful dog on your arm".

In one case, he said, inspectors called to an abandoned squat found an adult Rottweiler weighing a quarter of its correct 120lb weight. In the worst case of dog cruelty, inspectors from Bath found four puppies hammered to death.

Mr Grant said: "Too often, after long and painstaking inquiries by our inspectors, we

are handicapped by the inadequacy of the law and our position within it.

"Magistrates are often too lenient, leaving us bewildered and perplexed at their failure to impose lifelong banning orders."

● A couple who kept two dogs in "concentration camp" conditions were yesterday banned from keeping animals for life by Bristol magistrates.

Charles O'Reilly and Phyllis Holmes, both of Southmead, Bristol, were fined £600 and £400 respectively for causing unnecessary suffering to two lurchers.

After the case Miss Julie Glynn, for the RSPCA, said: "I have been prosecuting animal cruelty cases for 10 years and this is the first time I have known of a life ban being imposed. The animals were in a terrible state."

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March 21 1990

PARLIAMENT

'Irrelevant' Budget condemned

The Budget was at best irrelevant and at worst positively harmful to the Government's objectives of bringing inflation down and enabling Britain to seize the economic opportunities of the 1990s, Mr John Smith, the shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer said.

Resuming the four-day Budget debate in the Commons, he attacked the community charge and said that yesterday's concession had been a panic reaction to a wave of anger from one end of the country to the other.

Much of the argument was rightly about the unfairness of the tax, the most unfair tax in the world. No other country had adopted it or even thought about doing so.

Mr Smith opened by congratulating Mr Major on the "pleasant and competent way in which he had introduced his first Budget."

He said that many of the non-controversial proposals would attract little if any hostility from any quarter.

There was widespread approval for introducing independent taxation for men and women, even if there would be serious debate about some of the detail.

The assistance for football grounds was welcome. Other sports, such as cricket, rugby union, rugby league and athletics, also had a strong case for receiving equivalent assistance.

It remained to be seen how far the new savings plan attracted new rather than diverted savings.

Many families in Britain would feel, as they struggled with mortgage repayments and poll tax and high prices at every hand, that a chance would be a fine thing.

"They have a hard enough task to make ends meet, let alone find £130 a month for a savings scheme."

One got the impression that, over the past few months, Treasury officials had combed their files and searched among the shelves looking for useful administrative changes to offer the Chancellor to fill out his speech.

There were significant omissions from the Budget. The word "environment" was never uttered and there was no reference to child benefit which should have been increased to at least £8.60.

He was happy to accept the Chancellor's objectives of bringing down inflation and enabling Britain to seize the economic opportunities of the 1990s.

"But I believe that the Budget was at best irrelevant and at worst positively harmful to them."

This Government had said more about inflation than any other in history. At the last election, some Conservative MPs had been rash enough to assure their electors that the problem had been solved.

The Prime Minister had talked about moving towards zero inflation. "Extensive talk. Bountiful promises. Miserable action."

Inflation was not some satanic force invading like a plague about which little could be done. The Government could not blame the "nasty foreigners" or the last Labour government.

Britain's inflation was made at home and the authors are on the Government, front bench and the odd one on the back benches.

Despite all the talk about bearing down on inflation, the Government kept scoring inflationary own goals.

It was to blame for increased prices in public transport, electricity, water, prescription charges and for the high rise in council rents yet to come.

The Government had chosen a seriously high interest level of 15 per cent as its exclusive means of attack. Looking at the consequences on mortgage rates showed the inflationary result of interest rates. No wonder that there were high wage claims as people struggled to make ends meet in the face of new impositions like that.

Now there was a new twist, a new boost to inflation, in poll tax. With the bills coming in, people were discovering what the tax meant for ordinary family budgets.

The bills were about a third higher than domestic rates, raising an extra £3 billion this year, equal to 2p in the pound, on standard rate of income tax.

"The double effect of mortgage increases and poll tax is hitting ordinary families hard."

Much of the argument was rightly about the unfairness of the tax, the most unfair tax in the world. No other country had adopted it or even thought about doing so.

No wonder that few on the Conservative front or back benches were seeking to claim credit for poll tax. Few would want to have that in their curriculum vitae.

Rather than being called after ministers who had a hand in devising it, it should be called the Thatcher tax because the Prime Minister had pursued it ruthlessly and trampled on wiser counsel, even on wiser counsellors, in doing so. Before rushing to a judgement on what it should be called they should recollect a shrewd observation by Mr Michael Heseltine.

Labour MPs: Where is he? Mr Smith: Probably out working hard for the Conservative Party in the country. He is indefatigable in support of the Government and the present leader of the Conservative Party, although I do not know whether he understood that when he said he would take no part in an election contest, he meant that he would not vote for her (Labour laughter).

The poll tax was a unique combination of rampant unfairness and explosive inflation and nothing more deserved to be called a Tory tax.



Yesterday's Budget concession on that tax had been a panic reaction to a wave of anger from one end of the country to the other. The Opposition had asked for relief on the capital limit, but had been given little shift by ministers at the time.

"But circumstances alter cases and by-election circumstances in particular alter cases and we welcome the relaxation of an unjust rule against which we campaigned."

Those, however, who believed that they would benefit might be disappointed.

Now the Government had to explain what it would do about the injustice inflicted upon a substantial part of the country, Scotland, where poll tax was already being paid.

He did not think, from the Chancellor's demeanour yesterday, that there was a calculated plot against the people of Scotland, but that it was much simpler: the Government had again forgotten that Scotland existed.

In reply to an intervention by Mr Alexander Salmond (Banff and Buchan, SNP), he said that it would not take Labour four years to get rid of poll tax, and a Labour government would always take care to make sure that people were treated fairly throughout the United Kingdom.

The Budget was supremely irrelevant to the economic circumstances, with growth predicted at just 1 per cent, inflation remaining depressingly high, interest rates staying high, and the trade deficit heavily in the red this year, next year and the year after.

The Chancellor had noted that the downturn in economic activity would be sharp, which was a change from the 1988 Budget. In those happy, heady days Mr Nigel Lawson had declared that there had been an economic miracle.

The UK was now bottom of the inflation league, bottom of the growth league and had the worst trade deficit in Europe.

Things had gone wrong and must be put right.

Sir Peter Tapsell (Lindsey East, C) said that international financial opinion was far more worried about the prospect of another Labour government, than any of the statistics Mr Smith quoted (Conservative cheers).

Mr Smith said that the stresses and strains which sterling was undergoing today were a direct result of yesterday's Budget and the economic fundamentals. It was up to the Government to run sensible economic policies. Its failure to do so resulted in pressure on the currency.

The core of the problem was the neglect of manufacturing industry. There had been inadequate investment. A crucial change of policy was required to achieve a strategy for industrial recovery.

A move towards a competitive and productive economy, which alone could secure success, was yet to occur. Achieving

that was the vital task for the 1990s. A framework of policies was required to push interest rates down so that they could stay down.

Negotiations should be started to join the exchange-rate mechanism which would stabilize currencies, reduce interest rates and inflation, and encourage investment. However, what Mr Major had said about that was unhelpful.

Mr Peter Lilley, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said that membership of the ERM was not a magic potion to keep exchange rates stable; it was a commitment to keep them stable.

Mr Smith said that entry into the system would require acceptance of a number of disciplines and obligations to maintain currencies within a certain band.

Britain would not make the crucial move to a genuinely productive economy until the Government understood and accepted its responsibility to lead a partnership between Government and industry to achieve that.

Once again, by its irrelevant Budget, the Government had shirked its crucial responsibility to initiate economic policies and to permit people and industry to compete on equal terms in the new European market.

For Britain to have a real future in the 1990s it required, above all other changes, a change of government.

Mr Norman Lamont, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that the Budget was right for the economic circumstances. It was cautious and firm. It was accompanied by a tight monetary policy which was part of the Government's commitment to reduce inflation.

To those who argued that the Budget was not tight enough, the Government could point to the fiscal surplus that was unequalled anywhere in the world, and to an economy that had shown extraordinary resilience.

It was necessary for the economy to slow down after the extraordinary growth of recent years. That process was beginning, but a further slowing was required.

It was not too much to ask of businesses or the people to accept a period of pause when they had such an extraordinary period of growth for many years.

The tax measures in the Budget were broadly neutral, but it was a remarkable testimony to the tax-cutting record of the Government that the Budget was the first since 1981 to reduce neither income tax nor national insurance contributions.

Merely to have put up tax by £1 billion, £2 billion or £3 billion with an economy of over £500 billion, would have been marginal and made no difference.

The increase in inflation was partly the result of the interest rate cuts in 1987, which had been too much, in response to the stock market crash, but Mr Smith had then urged the Government to go further. Part of

the problem had been the confident outlook of people about the future.

The boom of the past few years had owed nothing to any fiscal stimulus from the Government. Government spending had grown only slightly over this period, and it was a convenient fiction put out by Mr Smith that the 1988 Budget had cut taxes massively.

Growth of demand had been the response of UK firms and individuals to financial deregulation. The private sector had borrowed heavily and moved into financial deficit on a scale not seen for years.

But this rapid growth in private sector spending had been essentially an expression of confidence about the economy and its future prospects.

Clearly this remarkable growth in demand had been a monetary one, so the response should be a monetary one, too.

Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline West, Ind Lab) asked what part the Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr Malcolm Rifkind) had played in Cabinet in agreeing that there should be no retrospective action for Scotland.

Mr Lamont said that he did not think it would be practical to implement this change retrospectively in Scotland. It would create all sorts of administrative problems and anomalies.

People's income and savings might have changed. Where they lived might have changed. It would be extraordinarily difficult to introduce such a change retrospectively.

There was another argument against. Capital limits applied not just to community charge benefits but also to housing benefit and income support.

The level of rebate that applied to the community charge last year in Scotland also applied to ratepayers in England.

"If you were to make a change retrospectively, it would be extremely difficult not to justify making further changes for ratepayers in England as well."

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith (Kincardine and Deeside, C) said that the community charge had brought many more people within the net of local government taxation.

For many, particularly the elderly, the level of local government taxation had risen far beyond inflation.

The unfairness was felt on the Conservative benches as well as on the Labour side. Was there not some other action he could take? Could he consider compensation?

Mr Lamont said he did not believe they could make a concession. They could not split community charge benefit from housing benefit. "You cannot do that if you are going to introduce this scheme in this year as we want to do."

Mr Smith's analysis of the economy was wholly flawed. He had a capacity for grabbing the wrong end of any stick that happened to be around.

Peter Jay, page 12

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Breath test powers 'enough'

The Government has concluded that existing police powers to stop and search drivers strike the right balance between the need for effective enforcement of the law and freedom of the individual, Mr David Waddington, Home Secretary, said in a Commons written reply.

He said that the Government had concluded that the police had adequate powers to require roadside breath tests. The Government had considered the views expressed during its consultations on the matter, that the police should be able to operate high-profile enforcement as a deterrent against drink driving.

"Their present powers allow them to do so and statistics show that they are using their powers to good effect."

Council rent 'fantasy'

Government guidelines for local authority rent increases were pure fantasy, Mr Clive Soley, an Opposition spokesman on housing, said at questions.

What explanation could the Government give to Conservative councils such as Redbridge, which was raising its average rents by £15, the demands for which would arrive on doormats at the same time as the poll tax?

Mr Michael Spicer, Minister for Housing and Planning, said that the guidelines were "a series of elements of the imagination. They took account of borrowing costs for local authorities, rent rebates and an 8 per cent increase in maintenance costs. It remained government policy to get council rents more in line with market rents."

£10m aid for Namibia

The Government is to contribute £10 million in aid to Namibia which became independent today, Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, announced in a Commons written reply.

The aid would focus on technical co-operation and rehabilitation, she said.

Previous aid had been agreed with the new Government.

BSE from feedstuffs

Five antelopes in British zoos have been confirmed as being affected by spongiform encephalopathy, the so-called mad cow disease found in cattle, Mr David Maclean, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, said in a Commons written reply.

The probable source of the infection, he said, was via commercial feedstuffs. The use of ruminant protein in ruminant feedstuffs has been banned since July 1988.

Tagging trial

The Government is now considering the case for a wider trial of electronic monitoring (tagging) in an area where numbers can be monitored as a condition of bail, Mr John Patten, Minister of State, Home Office, said in a written reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Home Office: Prime Minister. Budget debate continued.

Lords (2.30): Landlord and Tenant (Licensed Premises) Bill, second reading. Debate on overseas aid and on South Africa.

Rejoicing 'may turn to tears'

Political contacts had been revitalized at all levels as a result of the recent events in Eastern Europe and these were laying the foundation for more normal relations between nations, Lord Brabazon of Tara, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during a debate in the House of Lords on political and economic developments in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Lord Home of the Hirsel (C), opening the debate, said that some questioned whether the counter-revolution which had taken place was genuine. It was clear that the regime had gone so deep that neither the Soviet Union nor communist ambitions for empire could ever be the same again.

While the newly emerging democracies would want help, he advised against the European Community's putting on too much pressure as it would be a

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mistake "to run before we can walk".

Nevertheless, if the Eastern European countries could design a free market among themselves, sanctioned by institutional links with the European Community and underwritten by world banks, those countries could, in Mr Gorbachev's dramatic words, "recover their European home".

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, leader of the Opposition peers, said that events in Europe had created one of those moments in history when great opportunities were matched by great dangers. The approach of the West must be to observe and to react to those events wisely and generously.

"We are thinking in terms of an undivided Europe of free

countries, but if we do not get it right, rejoicing can quickly turn to tears."

Any aid programme should be organized through the European Community, the imminence of the single market meant that the initiative, sanctioned by institutional links with the European Community and underwritten by world banks, those countries could, in Mr Gorbachev's dramatic words, "recover their European home".

Lord Thomson of Monifieth (Lib Dem) said that, although it was a time of hope and uncertainty, dangling before us was the glittering prize of disarmament, hope and peace.

The task was to find how hope could be maximized and uncertainty minimized. It was unfortunate that the Prime Minister's approach so often isolated the United Kingdom in Europe.

Lord Brabazon of Tara said that the German Democratic Republic had been to the polls and voted for a new democratic

future in a united Germany. It had the Government's warmest wishes.

The pace of events in the Soviet Union had accelerated, leaving it littered by the freshly slaughtered carcasses of sacred doctrinal cows.

The Government had two priorities to offer support for the opportunities of reform in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, and to ensure that security and stability were maintained and strengthened in the transition to this new pattern of relations.

It was important that Western businesses and companies involved themselves in the process. Their experience and skills would be desperately needed. They should take the long-term view because it was likely to be some time before investments yielded returns, but rewards would accrue as reform proceeded.

'Hooliganism help' being offered to the Italians

Everything possible would be done to help the Italian Government and authorities to minimize trouble with British football supporters during the World Cup which starts in June, Mr Colin Moynihan, Minister for Sport, said during questions.

He was replying to Mr Denis Howell, Opposition spokesman on sport, who said it would be disastrous if British and Dutch soccer fans were allowed to go ahead with arranging their own "fixtures".

Mr Moynihan had said earlier that the Government was providing help to the Italian authorities with safety and security measures. An inter-departmental working party co-ordinated British measures on World Cup preparations.

Mr Tom Peck (Stalybridge and Hyde, Lab) called for the

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use of police spotters and a repeat of the alcohol restrictions so successful in Düsseldorf.

Mr Moynihan said that spotters and closed-circuit television would be used to monitor the effort to reduce hooliganism. British expertise would be on offer to the Italian authorities.

Fifty Italian carabinieri were at present in England, not as some newspapers had suggested, to learn English as it was understood by football fans, but to help with the policing of football. He agreed that alcohol restrictions were vital, and that subject would be discussed in a forthcoming ministerial visit to

was true that the police had only nine names on their computer of people who could be stopped, under Part II of the Football Spectators Act, from travelling to overseas matches. What would the minister do to stop those who had misbehaved from leaving British shores during the World Cup?

Mr Moynihan said that Part II of the Act would be in force, he hoped, by the end of April. He offered to look closely at any additional ideas which Mr Howell put forward to help with the hooligan problem.

Mr Michael Jack (Fylde, C) said that many Lancashire football fans would not be able to go to Italy because they face excessive community charge demands imposed by the Labour-controlled county council (laughter and protests).

Mr Howell asked whether it

'Unsolicited fax mail' protest

It should be made an offence to send unsolicited advertising material to anybody, or an offence to fax owners who do not wish to receive it, and such a list should be produced as quickly as possible, Lady Saltoun of Abernethy (Ind) said during a question time in the House of Lords.

Lord Trefgarne, Minister for Trade, said that licence for running branch telecommunications systems issued by the Secretary of State under the Telecommunications Act required anyone making unsolicited sales calls by telephone or fax, to any particular person, to stop if requested.

Anyone refusing to comply would be in breach of their

licence. The licence also provided a scheme whereby subscribers could register if they did not wish to receive sales messages of either a particular or general kind.

Lady Saltoun of Abernethy said that the Government should examine legislation introduced in some states in the US on the sending of unsolicited material, with a view to introducing its own legislation.

Lord Trefgarne said that he could not promise legislation, but he hoped that adequate protection could be provided by a code of practice. Ofcom was discussing with the professional and trade organizations concerned.

£112m for homeless

The Government is allocating £112 million for accommodation for the homeless in London and the South-east in the next financial year, Mr Michael Spicer, Minister for Housing and Planning, announced during Commons questions.

It is intended to provide 5,000 extra homes this year to which people sleeping rough can go.

Mr Spicer said that he was working on proposals, but the

announcement he had just made should help.

Mr Ronnie Fearn, Liberal Democrat spokesman on local government, said that spending on hostels and council accommodation was far too little.

Mr Spicer said that there was already considerable hostel accommodation in London and the South-east. The question was whether the throughput was fast enough.

Patten estimates average poll tax to be £363

The average community charge in England was estimated to be £363, Mr Christopher Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, said during Commons questions.

Mr Robert Clay (Sunderland North, Lab) said that Mr Patten's estimates of the poll tax had probably been made on a piece of paper of a fairly tall book.

Comes of all political persuasions had on average been forced to fix poll tax 30 per cent above Mr Patten's phoney guesstimate.

Mr Patten and the Government had cynically misled the people on poll tax levels, so what right did they have to deliver sanctimonious lectures to millions of people who were determined to resist this evil tax?

Mr Patten said that the main reason for the levels of community charge was that local authorities' gross revenue expenditure would be £5 billion higher next year than this year. With those figures, domestic rates would have increased by about 33 per cent.

The only lecture he would give to people was to obey the law and pursue democratic arguments through the ballot box. "And I hope that is the lecture which the Opposition Front Bench will give to Mr Clay because I understand that he advocates that his constituents should not pay their community charge, nor other people either."

Mr Patten said later that the average charge in Labour-controlled London boroughs was £167 higher than in Conservative boroughs.

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Mr William McKelvey (Kilmarnock and Loudoun, Lab) said that not one person in Scotland had benefited from the proposed changes to the poll tax

announced by the Chancellor yesterday.

Mr Patten said research showed that people in low-income households in Scotland were paying a smaller proportion of their income in community charge than they had paid in domestic rates.

He said later that the Department of

Mr Robert Clay, who complained about "fairly-tale estimates".

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Social Security would be discussing with local authorities how to ensure that the new community charge relief announced by the Chancellor would be paid as quickly as possible.

He told Mr Peter Fife (Burnley, Lab), who accused him of "kneecapping" local authorities, that all too many local authorities were "kneecapping" community charge payers. Community charge benefits were more generous than benefits available under domestic rates.

Mr David Blunkett, an Opposition spokesman on the environment, said that the Treasury and the Department of the Environment did not seem to understand that, while lifting the capital disregard for entitlement to rebate on poll tax and housing benefit, there had been a failure to alter the taper.

As a result, those with capital investments, despite lifting the ceiling to £16,000, would not be entitled under existing rules to rebate or housing benefit.

Was the Government prepared to change the rules which involved £1 of savings being counted for every £250 of capital savings over £3,000 so that people could get the entitlement? "In making a complete mess of this, they have misled people into thinking that they are entitled to help that they will not get."

Mr Patten said that Mr Blunkett was not well informed. The taper was already more generous than it had been. That was why so many more people would benefit under the new system than had benefited under the previous one.

During earlier questions, Mr Bryan

Goold, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, asked what estimate there was on how many poll tax charge-capped authorities had prepared and issued revised bills and on how much this would add to the already excessive cost of collecting the tax.

What help was being offered in respect of the cash flow problems such authorities would face?

He asked Mr David Hunt, Minister for Local Government and Inter-City, if he had any idea of the impossible burden he was putting on already hard pressed local authority treasurers, Tory as well as Labour, because of his refusal to specify what the charge cap criteria would be.

Mr Hunt said that Parliament had decided to give power to charge cap to the Secretary of State. When all the budget information had been considered, decisions would be announced to the House.

"Until then it would be wrong for me to speculate about the dimension or operation of any capping scheme, but we have made clear that we shall cap authorities which have chosen to budget excessively."

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) asked why, despite government propaganda, the poll tax was so widely hated throughout the country and why Cabinet members did not stand up to the Prime Minister in the same way that Tory councils were rightly resigning the Tory whip in "opposition to this notorious measure".

Mr Hunt said that it was unfair that people living in Conservative wards in the Walsall area, however they voted, were receiving only £298 a head spent

on them by the council, while people in the Labour areas would have £425 through the community charge.

That was the policy of the hard left on the council. It was a policy of looking for a scapegoat and blowing the rest. And it was a scandal.

Mr Donald Thompson (Calder Valley, C) asked for an assurance that those who were entitled to community charge rebates would receive them.

Mr Hunt said that the Government would do everything possible to ensure that they did. It was a scandal that people with over £10,000 would not be entitled to a rebate.

It was also incorrect that people would lose their transitional relief where their council was spending more than the Government's assessment. Some ten million were entitled to rebates and about seven-and-a-half million were entitled to transitional relief.

Mr Goold asked if the minister had had representations from Tory authorities whose spending was 31 per cent above the Government's projections, within a whisker of the national figure of 35 per cent. Could he guarantee that there would be no further Tory resignations?

Mr Hunt said that he had received protests and representations from Tory councils on the extent to which they put into the safety net to protect losing areas which, in the main, were Labour areas. If he were to take out of the comparison the safety net contributions, he would find that the average Labour charges were far above the average in Conservative areas.

Lithuania deserters defy Moscow orders

From Anatol Lieven, Vilnius

Lithuanian deserters from the Soviet Army have been given four days to return to their units "or they will be returned by force".

The warning was issued by Colonel-General Fyodor Kuzmin, commander of the Baltic Military Region. But not one of the deserters has any intention of obeying the order.

Most Lithuanians regard the warning as another example of psychological pressure, similar to President Gorbachev's "ultimatum" to the Lithuanian Government last Friday, which he later claimed was not an ultimatum at all.

Lithuanian police are now divided in their loyalties and in actions against deserters.

Mr Valeriyas Sadzevicius, a member of the commission on military affairs of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, said that since the declaration of independence the police have ceased to pursue deserters and have released several whom they had previously arrested.

However, there are continuing reports of officers and military police arresting deserters, and many are taking precautions and staying away from home.

"Don't worry, we are hiding them," said a mother who with others accompanied sons yesterday to the Lithuanian Government's registration centre at the Supreme Council building in Vilnius.

More than 260 deserters have registered since the declaration of independence 10 days ago. One, Ilmaras V.



Soviet troops carrying out manoeuvres in the Ukraine yesterday. Observers from 26 different countries attended. In Lithuania, however, deserters have refused orders to return to duty.

still wearing the uniform of the Air Transport Corps, decided to desert yesterday on his arrival from East Germany on home leave.

"I believe that I will be protected," he said, but his refusal to divulge his surname indicated some uncertainty.

Mr Mecys Laurinkas, a deputy and chairman of the committee on legal protection for soldiers, admitted that "we can ensure legal protection but not physical protection. We

have sent telegrams to each Soviet garrison explaining the situation and saying that all Lithuanian soldiers are protected by the Lithuanian Government, but we have received no answers".

The registration exercise is also intended to provide "protection" for Lithuanians who have deserted, and around 50,000 still serving in the army.

It is hoped that this will ensure that all can eventually

return home safely, a request that the Lithuanian Government has asked Mr Gorbachev to respect.

The declaration of independence has also coincided with reports of sharp increases in bullying of Lithuanian soldiers.

In the past, the bullying has amounted, on occasions, to torture and led to dozens of deaths and suicides among Baltic recruits in recent years.

Deserters said yesterday

that Soviet officers do not actually take part in beatings, but their abuse of the Lithuanians as "fascists" during political indoctrination sessions is contributing to the atmosphere of hostility.

Most of the soldiers at the registration centre yesterday had "deserted" by over-staying their home leave.

But four Lithuanians from a parachute battalion at Vitebsk, who tried to desert three days ago, were arrested close

to the Lithuanian border. The father of a sergeant from the same unit said his son was due for leave this week, but it was now being refused for Lithuanian soldiers.

Most of the deserters said the decisive factor in their leaving was, not the maltreatment, but Lithuania's declaration of independence. Some were strongly patriotic. Sigita Radzevicius, a driver in the air force, said: "I am a Lithuanian. I can't serve in the

army of a foreign state." However, he has yet to decide whether to serve in the new force of border guards being formed.

The deserters are being encouraged to join this force, the recruitment for which is being organized by the Sajudis national movement rather than by the administration.

Most of the deserters said they would serve, but were unsure as to when they would be called up.

Draft on secession fails to satisfy

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

As Moscow continued its pressure on Lithuania not to implement its declaration of independence, the promised bill on secession received its first reading in the Soviet Parliament — to general dissatisfaction.

Lithuanian deputies and some reform-minded Russian deputies thought it was too restricted, many Russians considered it left their compatriots without adequate security, and almost every speaker complained of the haste.

The first most deputies knew about it — even those who had taken part in drafting the new law — was when they were presented with it yesterday morning.

It was headed: "Law of the USSR: On the order of deciding questions related to the secession of union republics from the Soviet Union," and was placed before the Chamber of the Union in the first instance.

The law permits a republic to secede from the Soviet Union if it fulfils a series of superficially realistic, but in practice extremely demanding conditions.

The first step is a referendum which can be ordered either by the republic's Supreme Soviet, or by a petition signed by one-tenth of the republic's population.

The referendum, which must take place more than six months after the initial order, must produce a two-thirds majority in favour of secession.

The question is then referred to the USSR Congress of People's Deputies for initial approval, but only after the central authorities and all the other republics have been asked for their views.

The congress determines a transitional period — the suggested period is five years — for details such as finances and Soviet troops to be worked out.

Once all these conditions have been fulfilled and the transition period is complete to everyone's satisfaction, secession can take place.

As several deputies pointed out, the two-thirds majority in a referendum will be impossible even for ethnically homogeneous Lithuania to achieve, and completely impossible for most republics where the proportion of Russians is higher.

Polling in Georgia postponed

From Nick Worrall, Moscow

The elections planned for next Sunday in the Soviet republic of Georgia have been postponed until at least October to give emerging political parties a chance to take part.

Under pressure from groups threatening a boycott and from the Georgian nationalists, the republic's Supreme Soviet took the decision at a hurriedly convened meeting on Tuesday evening. At the same time, the parliament voted to amend the republic's constitution and do away with the guarantees of power for the Communist Party.

Radical parties, grouped under the umbrella of the National Forum, had been threatening for some months to boycott the elections, saying that taking part implied recognition of Moscow's armed occupation of Georgia in 1921.

Then the Popular Front, the mainstream nationalist opposition which had planned to contest the elections, suddenly changed its policy and demanded a postponement to allow time to organize multi-party elections.

The elections were to be similar to those being held in most other republics.

Latvia thinks twice on independence question

From Anatol Lieven, Vilnius

Newly-elected deputies of the Latvian Popular Front met yesterday to discuss their programme when the new parliament opens next month, and whether they should follow Lithuania in declaring independence.

The Popular Front has between 113 and 121 seats of the 170 decided in the first round of elections on Sunday. The confusion is because many "Popular Front" candidates came from different parties, but were standing with Popular Front support.

This lack of clear-cut party boundaries and discipline may make the process of decision a difficult one. There is a feeling among more radical Popular Front members that Lithuania had shown the way, and that it would be shameful not to follow.

However, the fact that the Russian population of Latvia is about 48 per cent of the total, makes it a very different case from Lithuania.

It seems that supporters of independence in the Latvian

parliament will have the two-thirds majority necessary to declare independence if they wish to do so. Of the 31 seats still to be decided, the Popular Front needs only to win 14 in order to gain such a majority. Opponents of independence, mainly Russians grouped behind the movement Interfront, won only 39 seats in the first round, and need to win 28 more in order to block a vote for independence.

Speaking on television, Mr Anatol Lieven, an Interfront leader and one of the new deputies, admitted that this would be impossible. Another Interfront leader, Mrs Tatyana Zhdanok, said that the fact that the percentage of the non-Latvian population is not reflected in parliamentary representation was due to an unfair division of constituencies, and that Interfront leaders had threatened civil disobedience if an "undemocratic" vote of independence was passed.

However, Mr Igor Lopatin, the Interfront chairman in

Latvia, said the movement "does not wish to disturb the peace". He said the division in Latvia was not an ethnic but an ideological one.

The threat of Latvian secession led President Gorbachev on Tuesday to summon the Latvian Communist Party and government leadership to Moscow. He made the same offer to them that he had made to the Estonians on Monday — that of a "new federation" with a special status for the Baltic republics.

The members of the Latvian group said later that they had replied, as had the Estonians, that Latvia must be "juridically a subject in international law and international relations, a member of the United Nations with its own embassies".

Some analysts believe that, given the number of Russians in Latvia, the republic may have to settle for independence in internal affairs, but with responsibility for defence, foreign affairs and customs remaining with Moscow.

Spies 'rife among new deputies'

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin, and Ian Murray, Bonn

More than a tenth of the 400 East German MPs elected on Sunday were formerly working for the Stasi and many may now be in the pay of the West German secret service, according to information held by the Commission for the Dissolution of the Stasi in East Berlin.

Both Herr Werner Fischer, who heads the Commission, and Herr Rainer Eppelmann, the leader of the Democratic Awakening party, are calling for all deputies to undergo security clearance before they take their posts in the Volkskammer.

Herr Fischer told the Cologne Express that he believes many MPs, ranging across all political parties, were active informants before last November. Herr Eppelmann said he had seen Stasi files incriminating more than 40 deputies.

Just days before the election on Sunday, Herr Eppelmann's party was shaken by revelations that Herr Wolfgang Schnur, its leader, had given information to the Stasi while representing dissidents.

Particularly worrying for the new government is the infiltration by the West German service, the BND. Herr Hans Modrow, who remains in office as Prime Minister pending the formation of the new government, is known to have told Bonn that East Germany is displeased.

The Stasi worked extensively for the KGB and it is inevitable that its best material has been passed on to Moscow.

Although Herr Fischer has called in all East German agents, many are believed to be working still for the KGB and their identity probably is unknown to Herr Fischer.

On KGB orders they might destroy evidence about a Volkskammer member's past, so Herr Fischer needs to move swiftly.

The presence of informants in the new parliament suggests a wide channel for Soviet access into West German intelligence at a time when Bonn is restructuring its security operations.

Kohl sees a two-year haul to reunification

From Ian Murray, Bonn

As he assessed the difficulties of forming a competent East German Government yesterday, Herr Helmut Kohl said it could take until 1992 to achieve German unity.

The West German Chancellor obviously still hopes it can be achieved sooner than that, but he is now after "a smooth evolution, not a hectic one". His preferred timetable is for East German accession to the West German Constitution to be agreed shortly after the general elections here on December 2, with the East Germans then voting for their own representatives to the Bundestag next year.

First, however, he must win that election and — though his prospects look very rosy at the moment — he has to overcome two big obstacles. One is that he has to create a credible East German government capable of negotiating and passing the myriad technical legislation required to make unity possible. Without this the exodus from the East to the West is likely to speed up, causing social problems that will undermine Herr Kohl's present dominant position.

To overcome this lack of depth, Herr Kohl is drafting in Herr Elmer Pieroth, a close political ally and a businessman, to run the East German Economics Ministry.

There is also talk of trying to persuade the Rev Manfred Stolpe, the respected leader of East Berlin's Evangelical Church, to join the government.

With the Social Democrats (SPD) in the East unwilling so far to join a grand coalition, the three Alliance parties are faced with preparing a mass of complicated and often controversial legislation and passing it through the Volkskammer with the likely help of the liberals.

However, as constitutional changes are involved in some of the necessary laws, it could prove difficult to pass them without the support of the SPD as well. The most urgent — and potentially controversial changes — are those needed to make a currency union possible.

Herr Kohl wants the nec-

essary agreement reached on this by the end of next month, or the beginning of May, so that there will be time for the required legislation to be passed through both the Bundestag and the Volkskammer by July 1 — the date on which resettlement benefits to East Germans are to be ended.

For the moment the victory of the Alliance seems to be encouraging people to stay.

BRUSSELS: Germany's most senior official here has outlined a three-stage plan to bring East Germany firmly into the European Community after German unification (Peter Guillard writes).

The plan envisages that East Germany will become a *de facto* part of the EC in one or two years' time, but before it could be exposed to the full force of EC law.

Speaking just two days before Chancellor Kohl visits Brussels to ally fears of Germany neglecting its EC commitments, Herr Martin Bangemann, the EC Commissioner for Industry and the Internal Market, said that the Commission must be allowed to participate fully in negotiations, as unification would give East Germany effective EC membership.

Herr Bangemann also called on the 11 other Community governments to offer collective encouragement to the Germans "in order to avoid an image of the Eleven being in any way against unification".

Dismissing fears that the EC had lost the diplomatic initiative over the German question, Herr Bangemann said that Chancellor Kohl's visit, together with the special EC summit on Germany to be held in Dublin on April 28, proved that the EC "had the situation firmly in hand".

Berlin SPD rethink over coalition

East Berlin — East Germany's Social Democrats are reconsidering their refusal on Monday to join a grand coalition with the conservative Alliance for Germany to govern the country on the road to reunification (Anne McElvoy writes).

Herr Ibrahim Bohme, the Social Democrat (SPD) leader, admitted yesterday that the party's 87 newly elected deputies disagreed with the decision of the ruling executive to stay in opposition. Talks were held last night between

the two sections with the result expected to be announced today.

The dispute centres around the desirability of governing East Germany with a two-thirds majority which the Alliance for Germany can only attain by offering participation to the Social Democrats.

Herr Lothar de Maiziere, the Alliance's leader, is keen to form a coalition with the SPD to enact changes to the constitution for which a two-thirds majority is required.

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consumers could often not make head or tail of EC documents. "Even Commission officials are managing to baffle each other," he said.

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The winning samples were chosen from a selection of legalistic phrases — six in English, two in French and one each in German, Dutch, Spanish and Portuguese — some of which were plucked from the EC's *Official Journal*, churned out daily in undigestible tones (and in nine languages) by Brussels.

Presenting the award in Brussels, Mrs Eirlys Roberts, director of European Research into Consumer Affairs, said she hoped it would lead to a language consumers could

Budapest stops flights for Jews

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

In a severe blow to Israel, Malev, Hungary's state-owned airline, yesterday caved in to threats from Islamic terrorists and announced that it was suspending all flights of Soviet Jews from Budapest to Tel Aviv.

Until the decision, Budapest had been one of the main transit points for the many Jews making their way from the Soviet Union to a new life in Israel. The other main routes being used are via Vienna, Bucharest and Cyprus, with a small number of Jews thought also to be making their way overland from Cairo.

The transit points are of special importance in organizing the flow of Jewish emigrants because in deference to repeated Arab protests, Moscow has refused to implement an agreement for direct flights between the Soviet Union and Israel which was to have come into effect on January 1.

Before the suspension, the main fears had been expressed about security at Bucharest's Otopeni airport where security is lax in the wake of the December revolution, which led to the firing of most of those previously in charge.

The Hungarian announcement came as a direct response to the threat against airports, airlines and planes associated with the mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel issued last week in Beirut by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, one of the shadowy pro-Iranian groups holding Western hostages in Lebanon.

In a report from Budapest, Hungary's official news agency MTI stated: "Malev has informed MTI that because of the threats... it has suspended the transportation of Soviet immigrants to Israel because it does not wish to jeopardize the safety of passengers and aircraft".

Thatcher urges businessmen to invest in Czechoslovakia

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister last night strongly backed Czechoslovakia's intention to join the Council of Europe as she urged British businessmen and financiers to invest in the country.

Hailing the changes that had taken place in Czechoslovakia, Mrs Thatcher announced the start of a programme under the known fund to develop co-operation and investment in the restructuring of the economy.

She told a dinner in honour of President Havel of Czechoslovakia at 10 Downing Street that businessmen should remember the reserves of skill and enterprise which had

made Czechoslovakia in the 1930s one of the great industrial powers of Europe.

Under the programme, Britain will offer expert help in creating employment, developing small firms, health and safety at work and how to deal with structural changes in the labour market.

The Government expects a delegation of Czechoslovak officials to travel to London to look at how Britain dealt with the large-scale redundancies at British Steel and British Coal and the role played by enterprise bodies in helping new industries to develop.

Mrs Thatcher said Britain wanted to see Czechoslovakia return once more to Europe.

"I hope we can rapidly develop a closer association between Czechoslovakia and the European Community which will restore those links and you will have enthusiastic support, too, for your intention to join the Council of Europe," she said.

But she reiterated her insistence that US forces based in Europe were essential to safeguard stability on the continent. The framework of the Helsinki Accords should be strengthened but that was not an alternative to Nato. "Experience has taught us that we need the presence of American forces in Europe alongside our armed forces," she said.

Tongue-lashing for Eurospeak

From Peter Guillard, Brussels

The European Commission yesterday earned itself the dubious honour of winning the first-ever annual "Euro-speak Award", handed down by an angry body of consumer groups who claim Euro-jargon has become so incomprehensible that even the EC's legally trained staff have trouble wading through it.

Two British consumer bodies made the award — a small glass pyramid and two pens — after a panel of 12 judges decided that of all the EC's institutions, the Commission had concocted the finest gobbledygook of all.

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grasp. "How can the 12 member states introduce similar legislation in their own countries if the meaning of the (EC) directive itself is ambiguous?" she said.

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Alarm over far Hunga in Ron

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

As Moscow continued its pressure on Lithuania not to implement its declaration of independence, the promised bill on secession received its first reading in the Soviet Parliament — to general dissatisfaction.

Lithuanian deputies and some reform-minded Russian deputies thought it was too restricted, many Russians considered it left their compatriots without adequate security, and almost every speaker complained of the haste.

The first most deputies knew about it — even those who had taken part in drafting the new law — was when they were presented with it yesterday morning.

It was headed: "Law of the USSR: On the order of deciding questions related to the secession of union republics from the Soviet Union," and was placed before the Chamber of the Union in the first instance.

The law permits a republic to secede from the Soviet Union if it fulfils a series of superficially realistic, but in practice extremely demanding conditions.

The first step is a referendum which can be ordered either by the republic's Supreme Soviet, or by a petition signed by one-tenth of the republic's population.

The referendum, which must take place more than six months after the initial order, must produce a two-thirds majority in favour of secession.

The question is then referred to the USSR Congress of People's Deputies for initial approval, but only after the central authorities and all the other republics have been asked for their views.

The congress determines a transitional period — the suggested period is five years — for details such as finances and Soviet troops to be worked out.

Once all these conditions have been fulfilled and the transition period is complete to everyone's satisfaction, secession can take place.

As several deputies pointed out, the two-thirds majority in a referendum will be impossible even for ethnically homogeneous Lithuania to achieve, and completely impossible for most republics where the proportion of Russians is higher.

Cruel age-old

From Nick Worrall, Moscow

The elections planned for next Sunday in the Soviet republic of Georgia have been postponed until at least October to give emerging political parties a chance to take part.

Under pressure from groups threatening a boycott and from the Georgian nationalists, the republic's Supreme Soviet took the decision at a hurriedly convened meeting on Tuesday evening. At the same time, the parliament voted to amend the republic's constitution and do away with the guarantees of power for the Communist Party.

Radical parties, grouped under the umbrella of the National Forum, had been threatening for some months to boycott the elections, saying that taking part implied recognition of Moscow's armed occupation of Georgia in 1921.

Then the Popular Front, the mainstream nationalist opposition which had planned to contest the elections, suddenly changed its policy and demanded a postponement to allow time to organize multi-party elections.

The elections were to be similar to those being held in most other republics.

Police see

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Alarm grows over fate of Hungarians in Romania

From Michael Binyon, Budapest

As concern deepened over the fate of ethnic Hungarians in Romania, Mr Gyula Horn, Hungary's Foreign Minister, yesterday called together all opposition parties to discuss the crisis.

The Hungarian Government yesterday summoned the Romanian ambassador for the second time in two days to demand protection for Hungarians in Romania.

The Government also sent letters to all signatories of the Helsinki Accords urging them to take swift action. And it hinted that it may seek an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council.

But the Foreign Ministry categorically ruled out any Hungarian intervention. "This is absolutely out of the question," Mr Imre Szekai, a Deputy Foreign Minister, said.

However, he accused the Romanians of exacerbating the situation by stepping up army readiness, giving the impression that Hungary was preparing to invade.

He described the latest developments in Transylvania as ominous and approaching civil war. The Bucharest Government had done nothing to curb the activities of Vatra Romanesca, which he called a "fascist organization", openly promoting racist and anti-Semitic policies. "Their failure to act earlier has given Vatra Romanesca a big influence on people. They are chanting slogans 'We want to drink Hungarian blood.' Their

strength is growing daily. And the Government is afraid to act because of the elections in May."

Mr Szekai said Hungary alone had little influence on Romania. But he ruled out any intervention by the Warsaw Pact saying it was being restructured, and was not able to act militarily as before.

"We have to find an effective means of solving such conflicts in a European context," he said.

The crisis has temporarily eclipsed the election campaign here. All parties have condemned the pogroms in Romania, demanding tough action by Budapest.

Yesterday the youth wing of the Hungarian Democratic Forum was preparing a convoy across the border into Tirgu Mures. The party offered to escort domestic and foreign journalists into Transylvania today.

Dr Jozsef Antall, the party president, denied that the action could be seen by Romania as a provocation. "We just want to show the world what is happening," he said.

The crisis may well boost support for the right-wing parties, especially the Smallholders and the Democratic Forum.

Dr Antall said: "War cannot be started on this issue. But all political and diplomatic tools must be used to put extra pressure on Romania."

All the other parties yesterday spoke in similar terms, except the hardline Socialist Workers Party.

Cruel legacy of age-old conflict

From Ernest Beck, Budapest

"In the foreseeable future there will be no more national minorities in Romania - only one socialist nation" the late Nicolae Ceausescu once proudly predicted.

Although the dictator's systematic efforts to wipe out the language, culture and way of life of the two million ethnic Hungarians in Romania failed, the legacy of his policies and the age-old conflicts which inspired them remain the root cause of the violent clashes which erupted this week in Transylvania.

For Hungary this large parcel of land, known as *Erdely*, is in many ways the cradle of its ancient Magyar civilization, a place where their language is still considered pure and free of foreign influences, and the great universities of old medieval Hungary were founded.

It was only in Transylvania that the hated Ottoman Empire failed to inflict its 150-year rule and the Hungarian culture could freely flourish.

Transylvania was awarded to Romania following the First World War peace treaty of Trianon in 1920, however, on the ground that, despite centuries-old Hungarian and Austrian rule, the majority population of the province was Romanian at the end of the Great War.

The grievances of the Hungarian minority in Transylvania, outnumbered 4-to-1 by Romanians, led to protests against the Ceausescu regime in December last year. Their protests, in defiance of the Romanian Army and

Securitate, were the spark which led to the revolution.

After the revolution the issue of Hungarian education and continuing demands for the re-opening of Hungarian-language schools led to the outbreak of beatings, reprisals and other attacks over the past month by Romanian nationalists, which was but a forerunner of this week's violence.

"Give us back our schools", was the cry as thousands of Hungarian students, euphoric about the December revolution and eager for the quick implementation of equal rights, took to the streets throughout Transylvania. But some Romanians came to see this as an outright call to separatism and splitting the nation, inspired by demands for a greater Hungary.

The slow suffocation of Hungarian-language centres of learning under Ceausescu began with the closure in 1959 of the Hungarian University in the city of Cluj, while at the same time the authorities carried out a forced resettlement programme which brought a new surge of Romanians to the Hungarian enclave. Soon all Hungarian schools were closed and Hungarian speakers forced to attend classes in Romanian. Hungarian publications were banned and radio stations closed, cutting off the vital cultural link to a new generation.

The communist regimes in both countries played an important role in maintaining the genocidal status quo.

Police seek Britons

Bogota (AFP) - Warrants have been issued here for the arrest of two Britons, identified as Mr Brian Tomkins and Mr Peter McAleese, allegedly training assassins for Colombian drug barons. General Carlos Arturo Casadiego, the deputy police chief, said yesterday. He said the two men were operating in a jungle area of northern Colombia known as Magdalena Medio.

Immunity deal Car murder

Managua (Reuters) - The Nicaraguan National Assembly, dominated by the outgoing left-wing Sandinista Front, has granted life-long legal immunity to former presidents and vice-presidents and immunity to future ones during their terms of office.

Mugabe threat

Harare - President Mugabe of Zimbabwe has threatened to dismiss any civil servants who support opposition parties in the country's second general election on Wednesday and Thursday next week.

Dynamite raid

Paris - Six masked men boarded a barge moored in the Gulf of Ajaccio, off Corsica, and stole about 550lb of dynamite and 50 detonators. No organization has claimed responsibility.

Strike goes on

Tokyo (AP) - About 5,000 railway workers went on a 24-hour strike in Japan for the third consecutive day to protest against the compulsory lay-off of 1,406 staff.

Car murder

Mogadishu (Reuters) - Peter White, a British official working for the World Bank in Somalia, was shot dead when he refused to hand over his car keys to thieves.

Aid arrives

Addis Ababa (AP) - A small lorry convoy unloaded food for famine victims here after running the gauntlet of the northern Ethiopian war zone.

Students held

Kathmandu (AFP) - Nepalese authorities released hundreds of people detained at an anti-government conference, but later arrested 80 students.

Uganda ban

Kampala (Reuters) - Uganda's ruling National Resistance Movement has extended for five years the ban on political parties first imposed in 1986.

Transplant bar

Jedda (AP) - Islamic theologians have ruled at a conference that the transplant of human sex organs carrying hereditary genes is forbidden by the Muslim faith.

British holiday for the orphan hero



Florin Vieru, aged 12, a Romanian orphan who claimed to have placed the flag on the city hall in Bucharest at the height of the revolution, surveying Manchester airport yesterday. He is among a group of 139 children who have arrived in Britain for an 11-day holiday to help them recover from the unrest. They are here as guests of the Romanian Orphans Appeal.

Populist sparks off deep division in Civil Forum

From Peter Green, Brno, Czechoslovakia

Only two-and-a-half months before Czechoslovakia's first free parliamentary elections a radical populist in the Moravian capital of Brno has provoked a deepening split in Civil Forum, the coalition that brought down Communist rule last November.

Lower ranking Civil Forum members are dissatisfied with what they see as an overdose of closed-door decision-making by the leadership.

Nationally the problem was put to rest when Civil Forum leaders met in Prague on Tuesday and agreed to open the process.

But in Brno, 200 kilometres south-east of Prague, the local Civil Forum parliament was to vote last night on expelling the populist, Mr Petr Cibulka. The parliament is reportedly split evenly between Cibulka followers and Civil Forum supporters.

Mr Cibulka, aged 40, leads an anti-Communist campaign that has gained the unrequested support of Moravian nationalists. In the past few weeks he has led several thousand followers on to the streets of Brno.

Until last week Mr Cibulka, a surveyor and an ex-cell mate of President Havel, was a member of the local Civil Forum's ruling council, and

he still directs its press operations. Civil Forum hopes to recover control of those.

Mr Cibulka's offensive is directed at Dr Jaroslav Sabata, until last week also a leader of the local Civil Forum and still a deputy in Czechoslovakia's Federal Assembly, where he holds two key leadership posts.

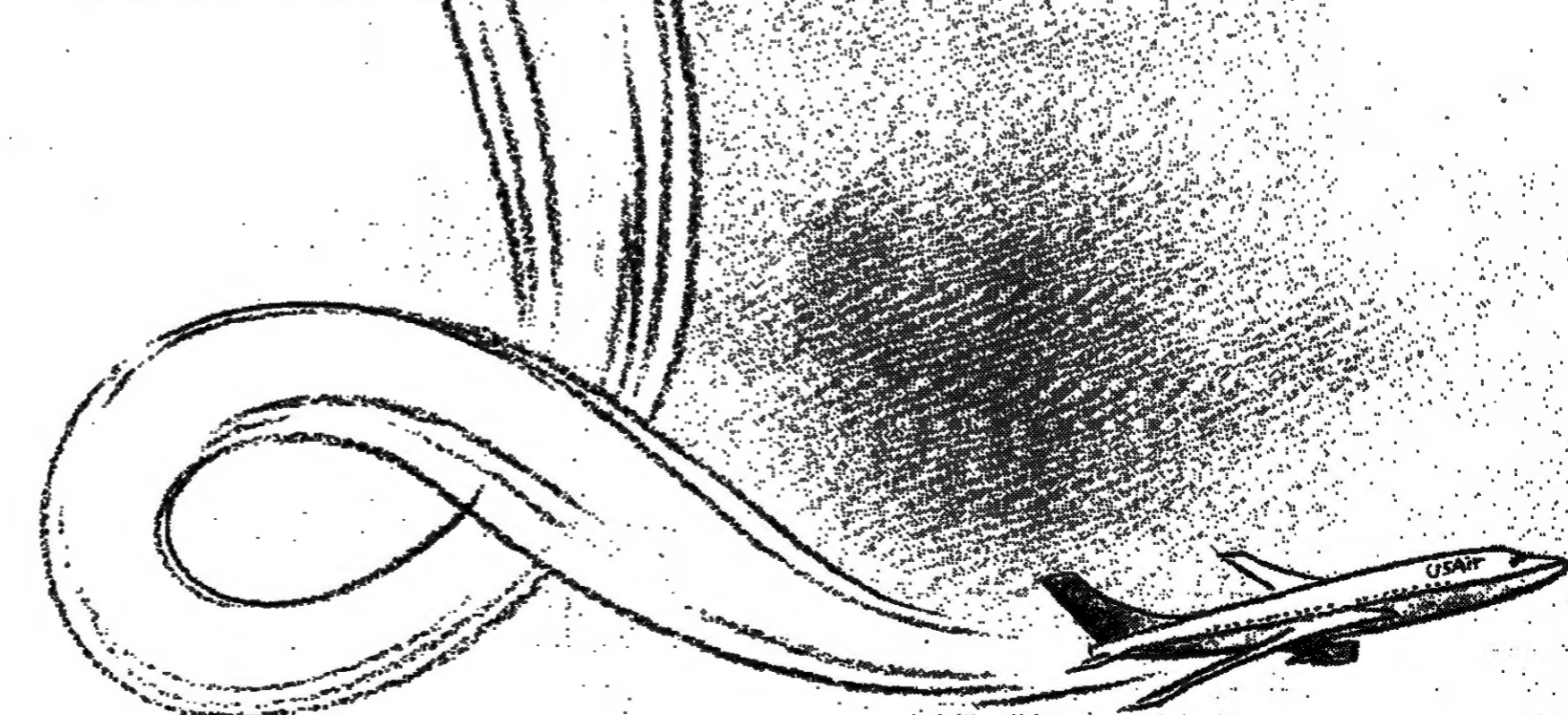
They say Dr Sabata has gone too easy on the Communists and have called for their man to replace Dr Sabata in the Federal Assembly.

Dr Sabata, aged 60, was Brno's Communist Party head until the 1968 Soviet invasion, but later spent many years in jail for dissident activities.

Dr Sabata's private secretary, said: "The core of the problem is the political conception of democracy. Cibulka's for direct democracy, and Dr Sabata for a sort of parliamentary democracy."

Local Civil Forum leaders worry that if Mr Cibulka is not stopped now he will attract the support of other extremist groups. This, they fear, could lead to anarchy in the streets of Brno.

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Tampa	Non-ref	£460

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De Klerk takes chance to sound out the Kremlin

From Michael Krupe in Windhoek and Fred Bridgland in Johannesburg

Contacts between the Soviet Union and South Africa have grown over the years, particularly during the negotiations over the independence for Namibia, but the two countries are far from establishing diplomatic ties.

Yesterday in Windhoek, for the first time a South African head of state and a ranking Soviet minister held talks. But the 90-minute meeting between President de Klerk and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, is as yet unlikely to speed up the process.

"I doubt if we are going to see movement soon towards the establishment of full diplomatic relations," said Professor Philip Nel, Director of Stellenbosch University's Institute for Soviet Studies and author of a newly published book *A Soviet Embassy in Pretoria*.

He said the Soviet Union has stopped all deliveries of arms to the African National Congress, but there are still differences of opinion in the Soviet establishment.

President de Klerk was probably seeking from Mr Shevardnadze greater clarity on these divisions, he said.

The differences exist between the Soviet Foreign Ministry and the Soviet Committee on Solidarity with the peoples of Asia and Africa. The latter, a creation of the Brezhnev era, is the Soviet Union's equivalent of the anti-apartheid movement, and was used to channel funds to the ANC, said Dr Nel. The

Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, now chaired by Vasily Solodnikov, a hardliner who as Soviet ambassador to Zambia helped build up the ANC's military wing Umkhonto We Sizwe (The Spear of the Nation), remains committed to the ANC.

He wants to see it dominate a future South African government.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry has been more flexible and pragmatic in its approach in recent years following the frequent contacts during the talks on Namibia's future. Relations became so warm that last year Anatoly Adamishin, then Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of Africa, made a secret trip to Pretoria while on an official visit to Mozambique.

The ministry has encouraged visits of South African trade representatives to Moscow and deals are being discussed for South Africa to provide mining technology in exchange for oil products.

But it is significant, said Dr Nel, that Mr Nelson Mandela, vice-president of the ANC, has been invited to Moscow not by the Foreign Ministry but by the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee.

He added it was doubtful whether President Gorbachev would want to choose sides at this moment when he had other problems to resolve.

Pretoria, meanwhile, is aiming to capitalise on the Namibian independence to launch a diplomatic offensive in Africa.

VIPs race round Windhoek diplomatic circuit

From Gavin Bell, Windhoek



Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC Vice-President, meeting Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, in Windhoek, yesterday. Below: President de Klerk of South Africa greeting Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister.



Inside the Ink Palace that overlooks Windhoek, President Nujoma, the new Namibian leader, confers with President de Klerk of South Africa as President Chissano of Mozambique waits patiently in the next office. The Malagasy delegation is politely ignored in the corridor.

A presidential aide sticks his head into another office and calls "Romania? Two minutes" as Mr de Klerk leaves to meet President Kaunda of Zambia.

Down the road, Mr Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader, bids farewell to Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, and welcomes Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, while Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, briefs journalists after meeting the two superpower envoys. After a few moments he begs to be excused - he has an urgent appointment with President Mubarak of Egypt.

For a few days Namibia's tiny capital, sandwiched between the Skeleton Coast and the Kalahari Desert, has become the improbable centre of world affairs as it plays host to 150 foreign delegations attending the independence ceremonies.

While a rainbow of humanity drawn from myriad races and tribes dances in the streets, sirens announce a bewildering cross-flow of VIPs rushing from one top-level meeting to another. Amiable chaos prevails as official motorcades flash past children dressed as penguins, a giant motorized boot signifying "the step into a new era", and students urging citizens to "save the gay whale".

The flurry of political consultations which have nothing to do with Namibia's independence has spawned a popular joke that Mr Nujoma is the best man at his own wedding. Mr Baker and Mr Shevardnadze had to forego an official function, because of meetings with each other and lesser stars in the diplomatic galaxy.

Some of the meetings are historic, most are important, and a few are embarrassing. A 90-minute conference between Mr de Klerk and Mr Shevardnadze yesterday was the first between a South

African head of state and a ranking member of a Soviet Cabinet.

"Our talks were positive and constructive," Mr de Klerk said as they smiled and shook hands for press photographers. Mr Shevardnadze continued: "I just want to add that it was a necessary meeting which has taken place in an important phase of the development of this region, and of the world."

Stirring stuff, Mr de Klerk appeared to be less pleased by a chance encounter with Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who approached him in a sports stadium and warmly shook his hand in full view of the international media. Ever the opportunist, Mr Arafat beamed towards the cameras, but Mr de Klerk's smile was distinctly strained.

A German brass band drowned out the tribal drums outside Mr Genscher's residence to bid him a happy 63rd birthday. Mr Baker entered into the festive spirit and presented the minister with a gift, saying: "You share the same birthday as Namibia, and that is an auspicious event."

With accommodation at a premium in the normally sleepy town of 100,000 people, international incidents are inevitable. South African sound technicians preparing for a concert emerged shaken from a late-night confrontation in the Safari Hotel when they banged on the wrong door to rouse a member of their crew. The angry Libyans who opened it apparently believed they were being attacked.

For the Namibian organizers, the independence party has been a logistical nightmare. A consignment of flags of the attending nations was delivered without identification or instructions on which way up they should be flown. The problem was solved at the last minute with a curio shop producing a table place-mat adorned with the flags of the world.

Even Mr Hage Geingob, the urban Prime Minister of Namibia, had a disconcerting lapse while announcing foreign dignitaries at a mass rally. "His excellency, the President of... pause to confer with an aide... Palestine." Up popped Mr Arafat, grinning.

The Namibian Cabinet

President Sam Nujoma: Prime Minister Hage Geingob; Attorney-General Harriet Rupprecht; Home Affairs Hifikepunye Pohamba; Foreign Affairs Theo-Ben Gurirab; Education, Culture, Sport Nahas Angula; Information, Broadcasting Hideo Hamutenya; Mines, Energy Andimba Toivo ya Toivo; Justice Ngirikutuke Tjirangue; Trade, Industry Ben Amathila; Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, Rural Development Gerhard Hanekom; Defence Peter Mueshange; Finance Otto Herrig; Health, Social Services Nicky Iyambo; Labour, Public Service, Manpower Development Hendrik Witbooi; Local Government, Housing Libertine Amathila; Wildlife, Conservation, Tourism Nico Bessinger; Works, Transport, Communications Richard Kapete; Lands, Resettlement, Rehabilitation Marco Hausik; Security Peter Tshechama.

Peres starts wooing religious parties

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Amid jubilation on the Israeli left, Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, yesterday set about trying to form a new government which will accept the US-backed plan for Israeli-Palestinian talks on elections in the occupied territories.

President Herzog, explaining why he had invited Mr Peres and not Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader and caretaker Prime Minister, to form a new administration, said that Labour and its allies formed the largest group in the Knesset (parliament).

Mr Peres's first act yesterday was to telephone Mr Shamir to see if he would join a further "national unity" coalition of the kind which collapsed over the peace issue last week. But Mr Shamir refused, and Labour sources said Mr Peres's overture had been a formality.

Senior Likud officials immediately went on the offensive, claiming that a Labour-led government would bring

about the "disaster" of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, which would threaten the very existence of Israel.

Mr Moshe Katsav, the Minister of Transport, said Likud could no longer be a partner in any Peres government.

Mr Peres has three weeks in which to prove he can form a government, with a further three weeks to try again if he fails. After that President Herzog can invite Mr Shamir to form an administration.

Labour sources said that Mr Peres was actively courting the religious parties, including Agudat Israel, which has five seats, and which has reportedly been offered the ministries of labour and housing.

● TUNIS: Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, said yesterday the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories had brought down the Israeli Government, and his Fatah movement pledged to intensify the 27-month-old rebellion.

Bail for Ward suspects

Two safari park rangers detained last week by Kenyan detectives investigating the Julie Ward murder were released on police bail yesterday (Our Foreign Staff writes).

Scotland Yard detectives, called in by President Moi to assist the investigation, indicated however that the two men may be charged with the murder of the British wildlife enthusiast, whose charred remains were found in the Masai Mara game park 18 months ago.

The inquiry now hinges on scientific evidence gathered by Scotland Yard forensic experts investigating the unrelated murder of Robert Ouko, the Kenyan Foreign Minister, who was shot and his body burned.

Auctioneers offer reward

New York - Sotheby's and Christie's have offered \$1 million (£625,000) as a reward for the return of uninsured works of art, worth an estimated \$200 million, stolen from a Boston museum last Sunday (James Bone writes).

The theft, from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, is reportedly the biggest art crime since the Mona Lisa vanished from the Louvre in Paris in 1911.

Socialists to retain Mauroy

Paris - French Socialist officials emerged from party headquarters after 15 hours of wrangling to announce that they would not be seeking M. Pierre Mauroy as Secretary-General (Susan MacDonald writes).

In an attempt to keep the warring factions within the ruling party happy, a new list of deputies is being drawn up, in which each grouping gets a fair slice of the jobs.

China boosts military budget

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

The military was given a financial lift in yesterday's Chinese budget, receiving a bigger percentage increase in funds than any other sector of the economy - apparently in recognition of its increased importance since troops opened fire on anti-government demonstrators last June.

The armed forces were awarded a 15 per cent rise in funds compared with 1989, while education received 9.8 per cent more and agriculture 7.9 per cent. National defence will get 28.97 billion yuan (£3.78 billion).

Funds for education still account for a higher share of government expenditure, at 35.09 billion yuan, and agriculture receives 21.48 billion yuan. Nevertheless, this is the first time in four years that the allocations to agriculture and education have dropped as

proportions of total expenditure. The injection of funds into the forces rather than to agriculture is inconsistent with recent statements of policy.

Conservative economists and politicians have criticized policies of the past few years, which they say have neglected the peasants, and now emphasize increased investment in agriculture. The windfall for the armed forces is also inconsistent with efforts in recent years to streamline military spending.

The Communist Party realizes that the Army is the most important guard against rebellion, and as such must be kept happy. The budget did not specify what the money would be spent on, simply saying that it would "strengthen our national defence and make up for the inadequacy of

military expenditure caused by inflation".

The National People's Congress, now in 16-day session, also accepted the resignation of Mr Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader, from the chairmanship of the State Military Commission. This was no surprise, since he resigned as chairman of the far more powerful Central Military Commission of the party last November.

Mr Jiang Zemin, the party General Secretary who took over that post from Mr Deng, is the only candidate for the chairmanship of the state body. He has admitted he has no military experience, and Mr Deng and President Yang are seen as the real powers behind the military.

Yesterday's budget document, presented by Mr Wang Bingqian, the Finance Min-

ister, described the situation as "precarious", and listed problems of a sluggish market, of enterprises stopping production, and a falling growth rate for industrial production.

The austerity campaign introduced in the autumn of 1988 caused "financial procedures to become chaotic in some places". It added: "The ideas of hard work, thrift and economy and going through a period of austerity have not really become ingrained."

Mr Li Peng, the Prime Minister, has already called for partial removal of the austerity measures, proposing new injections of money into the economy.

A Western diplomat said the budget seemed to be a collection of stop-gap measures which did not tackle the underlying problems of China's ailing economy.

Attack on Taiwan poll 'farce'

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan was re-elected yesterday against the backdrop of a sit-in by students who have condemned the elections as a farce and bitter factional fighting within the ruling Nationalist Party.

Mr Lee, who was the only candidate, won on a vote in an electoral college which consists largely of octogenarians elected on the mainland 40 years ago who have not faced re-election since. It is this electoral procedure which has been the focus of harsh criticism from Taiwan's usually passive students.

Opposition and students alike have called for the scrapping of the elections and for a more democratic procedure. Some 3,000 students have been holding a six-day sit-in in the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Square.

Forty are on hunger strike and two are in hospital. They have called it "Taiwan's Tiananmen", but the authorities are aware that their condemnation of Peking's crackdown means that they have to treat the students with caution. The President was expected to meet student leaders yesterday to defuse the crisis.

The student movement has drawn widespread support. Students and teachers are holding rallies in sympathy throughout the island, and are sending food and money to the students in Taipei.

Reuter reported from Taipei on Tuesday that riot police had built barbed-wire barricades around the building where the meeting took place.

Despite Mr Lee's popularity, the old guard had tried to split the party for the first time by proposing two candidates to run against him and his deputy, Mr Li Yuan-zu.

Burma uproots opposition supporters

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Burma's military government is expelling people from their homes to distant "satellite" towns in an apparent attempt to weaken support for opposition parties in the national elections in May.

One Western diplomat in Rangoon said that at least 200,000 people had been evicted from the city, Mandalay and Taunggyi in the past year. Another diplomat put the figure at "many tens of thousands", while a Rangoon lawyer estimated the number at half a million.

The families, described by the authorities as "slum squatters", have been forced out of homes they have occupied for more than 30 years.

Witnesses say that the Government has mixed motives for these actions, including vengeance against districts which strongly opposed the military during the crushing of

pro-democracy protests in 1988. Neighbourhoods that might become active in the election campaign have also been singled out for destruction.

Residents of Bahan One - the Rangoon constituency which Daw Aung San Suu



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi: Under house arrest for months.

Kyi, the opposition leader, would have contested - suffered more than most. She has been under house arrest for eight months and banned from running in the election.

A West German parliamentary delegation which visited Burma last month said the relocation was being executed in "a brutal way". Most of those in Rangoon were sent to settlements north of the city where water, electricity and other basic services were inadequate or non-existent.

The Bonn MPs verified reports that deaths and illness had occurred among the new settlers as a result of the harsh treatment. Malaria and other diseases were rife, they said, and many children were malnourished because food supplies did not reach their desolate localities.

Some people cannot afford to buy food because the forced

move left them without money. They lost not only homes but also shops and workplaces. They get five land which often is too arid to cultivate, but they pay for the move and new dwellings themselves.

The government-controlled media have not reported these offences. Officials describe the relocation as "slum clearance".

Blocks of flats are going up in place of the old homes. Local people say most of the new housing is allocated to government officials, military personnel and members of the National Unity Party, the successor to the Burmese Socialist Programme Party which ruled for 26 years.

There are also other inducements to join the party. Party card carriers will not be troubled if found in the streets during curfew.

Pills fail to dull Cairo cacophony

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

Scientific backing for Cairo's unenviable claim as the world's greatest urban nightmare was provided yesterday in an official report revealing that the deafening noise-level is now held responsible for driving more than half its 12 million population to the regular use of sedatives and sleeping pills.

The incessant blare of horns from one million cars and the wail of loudspeakers from the thousands of mosques has forced 62 per cent of residents to resort to pills to get to sleep, the report said. The amplified Islamic call to prayer is broadcast five times a day, each mosque slightly out of time with the other.

A straw poll, conducted at shouting pitch against a cacophony of background noise emanating from car horns, antiquated buses and morning calls to the faithful found that

the favoured antidote was Valium, a local version of Valium.

The survey, financed by the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Studies and conducted under the aegis of Professor Adel el-Marlawi of Cairo University, found that as a direct result of the noise, 33 per cent of the population suffered from high blood pressure and productivity was 14 per cent below the national average.

The professor's team of investigators set up monitoring equipment for a week at eight key venues in the city - the largest in Africa - including the fume-clogged thoroughfare that leads to the pyramids at Giza. They, like most of the nation's ancient monuments, are facing severe problems because of the degraded environment.

The researchers, working between 7am and 10pm,

discovered what most residents have long suspected, but never have been able to prove, that noise levels in parts of the city known to Egyptians as *Umm el-Dunya* (mother of the world) are 10 times higher than internationally accepted health standards.

Using a sample of residents aged between 20 and 50, the report isolated noise from Cairo's other main social ills as a cause of nervous disturbance and hypertension. It found that the city's hopelessly inefficient traffic police were among the main victims of the noise factor.

The report pointed out that the traffic chaos arose mainly because neither drivers nor pedestrians bothered to pay any attention to regulations.

The enormity of the problem facing the authorities was shown during a recent two-week crackdown organized by

the police. During that period, a total of 250,000 tickets were handed out, including 33,000 for cars left in no-parking areas, 23,850 for crossing red lights, and more than 13,000 for illegal use of the horn.

But as a short walk through the dusty streets showed yesterday, the campaign has had no noticeable effect. Pedestrians could be seen picking their way gingerly through pools of overflowing sewage because of closely parked vehicles they were unable to get on to the pavements.

The extent of the environmental problem which, as well as noise, involves air pollution and overcrowding of monumental proportions, was described by Dr Bahaddin Bakri, who founded the Egyptian Greens Party. "In Germany, they are talking about the quality of life. Here, we are concerned about survival."

Racism row taints Australian poll

From Christopher Thomas, Brisbane

The Canberra Government attempted to appease Japanese anger yesterday over the emergence of a clear racist tone in the final days of the Australian election campaign.

Australian officials fear that Tokyo's perception of anti-Japanese sentiment may sound the death knell for joint construction of a high-tech "city of the future" in Australia, known as the "multi-phased polis".

The row began after Mr Andrew Peacock, the leader of the opposition Liberal Party, said unexpectedly he opposed the futuristic research-and-development city, in which Australians would get jobs only if they were prepared to carry out "menial tasks".

He said he did not like "enclaves" - a choice of words that seemed almost calculated to play on a widespread misconception that the

project amounts to the construction of a Japanese city in Australia.

Mr Peacock added that foreign nationals would lead lives in this exclusive "enclave" that would be beyond the reach of ordinary Australians. It was an elitist concept, with 10 golf courses and a private bookmaker taking bets on the world's leading sporting events. Perhaps someone had overdone on Plato's *Republic* and wants a mob of philosopher kings living there.

Mr Peacock said: "I have not injected any note of racism into this election." He accused Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, of having a "grubby, deceitful" record on racial issues.

Japanese and Australian officials were due to discuss the controversy at a regular meeting in Tokyo last night. Much to Canberra's relief, Mr Peacock appeared determined

yesterday not to be drawn into further argument about the issue, which has backfired on him. His announcement, which took most leaders of his own party by surprise, infuriated business people who strongly support the project - and also back the Liberals.

Mr Will Bailey, chief executive of the Australia & New Zealand Bank, said that the announcement was the result of short-term political considerations.

There was embarrassment and anger in Mr Peacock's own party, too. Mr John Elliott, the Liberal Party president, has been one of the staunchest advocates of the project and has argued forcefully for it to be sited outside Melbourne, Victoria.

The affair seems to have further enhanced public reservations about Mr Peacock,

who scored a paltry 18 per cent rating in a recent opinion poll. His campaign appears to be in serious trouble, with every survey pointing to a fourth term for the Labor Party.

The Hawke Government says it will not make a final decision on the city project until it examines the findings of a joint feasibility study now nearing completion.

Although Japanese officials and business leaders refused to comment publicly yesterday, there does appear to be a growing reluctance in Tokyo to go ahead with a project that arouses so much controversy.

Meanwhile, Mr Hawke received gloomy economic news yesterday, which he turned to his advantage by declaring that mortgage interest rates would soon fall. The Bureau of Statistics reported that economic growth fell below zero during December.

Artistic Chernobyl in the Chapel?

By George Hill

Working alone five centuries ago, Michelangelo Buonarroti took four years to cover the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel with frescoes which have been among the wonders of the world ever since. A team of nine restorers have just finished refurbishing his work, and have taken 10 years over the job.

But it is not questions of labour productivity that have made the Sistine Chapel the most controversial, as well as the most ambitious, of all modern projects to restore fragile masterpieces.

The transformation is drastic, as thousands of visitors who have passed through the chapel in the past 10 years have partially seen.

The question that will be faced next week by a symposium of art historians, meeting in Rome to see the completed results for themselves, will be whether Michelangelo's work has been triumphantly revealed as he meant it to be, or irretrievably ruined.

The intensity of the controversy has fully measured up to the celebrated *terribilità* that Michelangelo's work aspires to. Professor James Beck, of Columbia University in the United States, has described the cleaning as "an artistic Chernobyl".

Professor Beck went to Rome in 1988 and after seeing the restoration of the vault and its lateral lunettes, by then almost completed, he repeatedly appealed to the Pope to stop the restoration.

At least, he begged, work should be cancelled or postponed indefinitely on the Last Judgement, the almost equally immense masterpiece of Michelangelo's old age, which covers the end wall of the chapel behind the High Altar. The restorers intend to get to work on the Last Judgement as soon as judgement has been passed on their efforts on the ceiling.

Some Italian scholars, including the leading Florentine art historian, Dr Alessandro Conti, echoed his protests, though in less apocalyptic terms. But the Pope stood by the Vatican's own art historian, Professor Fabrizio Mancinelli, and by the head of the team of restorers, Signor Gianluigi Colalucci.

Observers say that the dusky saints and prophets painted on the cracking plaster have emerged almost unrecognizable — "dressed in chirpy Benetton colours", with half their majesty and mystery stripped away.

The stakes in the dispute could scarcely be higher. The frescoes of the Sistine Chapel have some claims to be considered the most influential single work of art in the history of painting since the Renaissance. They are the definitive example of the monumental and idealized style which pointed the development of European painting to mannerism and the baroque.

Even contemporaries as gifted and temperamentally unlike Michelangelo as Raphael recognized the force of his heroic conception of the human body, and absorbed much of his spirit into their

own style. Later masters as diverse as William Blake and Henry Moore were deeply marked by his influence.

But the significance of the frescoes is much more than an academic matter of art history. The host of figures swarming in and around the architectural details of the ceiling include many which have entered the common imagination as profoundly as any images ever drawn.

Most obviously, they include the image of the creation of Adam, where God's finger commandingly touches the languid figure of the awakening nude, and sends life flowing into his limbs like an electric current. But they include many other scenes from Genesis and the prophetic books, and also individual figures — pensive cherubs and Sibyls who have strayed puzzlingly into the Bible out of the Classics — which possess an enigmatic and unforgettable majesty.

The Sistine Chapel, a project of revolutionary boldness, is the work not of one Michelangelo but two, for his mood changed and darkened between 1512, when he painted the ceiling, and 1541, when he completed the Last Judgement.

So a restorer who ruined the Sistine frescoes would have done damage on a historic scale. If the verdict goes against him, Signor Colalucci has guaranteed himself an immortality comparable with that of the unfortunate Daniele da Volterra, "il braghettone" ("the knicker-maker"), who was commissioned by the prudish Pope Paul IV to paint draperies over the nudes of the Last Judgement a few years after Michelangelo finished work.

For technical reasons, the changes are irrevocable, whether for better or worse. The point in dispute is whether the layers the restorers have stripped away are darkening



Glare of publicity: Members of the Italian restoration team working on the celebrated Michelangelo frescoes under the lights of a Japanese television crew.

secretions left by the soot of five centuries of votive candles, and the efforts of unskilled earlier restorers, or whether they include finishing touches that were made by Michelangelo himself.

In the fresco technique, the surface to be decorated is given a layer of fresh plaster, and the colour is then applied while the plaster is still wet. The wet plaster absorbs the colour, and then dries to form

a layer of colour surface which is bonded to the wall. It is a technique demanding the highest skill in working rapidly before the plaster dries, without making mistakes.

In the Sistine Chapel, the layer of plaster has for centuries been covered by a coat of glue-size. This has given a varnish-like gloss to the matt surface of the plaster, but over time it has darkened. The question is whether Michelangelo himself applied the size, to cast a mysterious dimness across the scene, and to allow himself to add the kind of afterthoughts and corrections that an oil painter customarily puts in, but are denied to the painter who works in fresco.

There is some doubt about how far Michelangelo was skilled in the technique. He does not appear to have done much work in the medium before. He complained in his

journals and in a poem written while he was working on the ceiling that he "is not in the right place, nor is he a painter".

The unfamiliar task was herculean, physically as well as intellectually. Contrary to popular belief and to the Charlton Heston interpretation, he did not work on his back but, perhaps even more uncomfortably, standing up with his head thrown back. He worked alone, year after year, refusing to use assistance sent from Florence despite Papal pressure to finish the job.

Critics of the restoration have difficulty in coming to terms with a Sistine Chapel which is brilliant and luminous, almost metallic in the intensity of its colours.

A new Michelangelo very different from the dark and sombre images we had become used to has emerged from the murk.

The supporters of the restoration claim that Michelangelo only very rarely added any subsequent shading, and that in these isolated cases it has not been touched. Even their opponents have to concede that many shrouded images which could not be made out before, such as Noah's Ark, now stand out clearly. But rightly or wrongly, the details they have removed have gone for ever.

A degree of national amour propre may be involved in some of the protests from the Italian side. The project was controversial before the first restorer ever laid a brush on the ceiling. The team of restorers are Italian, but they have worked throughout under the watchful eyes of a

small army of Japanese photographers and film crew.

In 1980, Italy's national pride was painfully wounded when the Vatican announced that the restoration of "La Sistine" was to be financed by Nippon Television Network Corporation, which in exchange for \$3 million, by today's standards a relatively paltry sum, obtained exclusive photographic, film and television rights to the restoration up until 1995. The injury to national pride, however, was soon forgotten when the Vatican let it be understood that the Japanese corporation's offer had simply not been matched by any Italian corporation, private or public.

To vindicate their much-criticized project, the Vatican authorities have arranged a big exhibition, to be opened by the Pope on Saturday. It will tell the story of how Pope Julius II prevailed on the reluctant Michelangelo to complete the half-finished scheme of frescoes in the chapel, and how it influenced later generations of painters.

There will also be a large section dedicated to the methods and techniques of the restoration project. The exhibits include a letter from Julius II to Michelangelo in which the decorations of the chapel are commissioned and a detailed list of the costs involved. The British Museum, the Ashmolean Museum and the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, among others, have lent the Vatican a series of preparatory drawings for the chapel.

Paintings and drawings by Caravaggio, Raphael, Annibale Carracci and Rubens have been borrowed from

other European museums to illustrate the influence of the Sistine Chapel on other artists. There are also more than 40 16th-century prints showing the wide popular interest the Sistine Chapel project aroused in its own time.

One detail in the section displaying Michelangelo's techniques helps to confirm that he was not the kind of fumbler who needed to go back over his work making corrections. The usual technique of the fresco artist was to prepare a full-scale paper sketch, or cartoon, for each part of a composition. The paper would be perforated round the outline, and the cartoon held up against the wall. It would be patted with a bag of white powder to transfer the design to the wall.

But according to Vatican art-historians, Michelangelo's confidence and dexterity were such that he painted some of the smaller sections, the lunettes around the windows, virtually free-hand.

An even more significant detail is a discovery made a couple of years ago, during the restoration. A patch of painted plaster was found which had been covered up in a repair of the vault of the chapel. This repair can be reliably dated to 1568, several years after Michelangelo's death.

Underneath the repair work, Michelangelo's paint layer could be seen without a trace of the notorious layer of glue-size.

"I am quite sure the glue-size was not applied by Michelangelo," says Sharon Cather, an art historian at the Courtauld Institute, who has visited the Sistine Chapel several times to study the work in progress. "It is inconceivable that he would have gone to all that trouble only to cover it all up with a layer of glue."

Experts in restoration point out that the Michelangelo controversy is not unique. A similar future breaks out almost every time a much-loved painting is cleaned.

"It seems to surface fairly regularly, because its such an emotive issue," says Peter Young, a specialist in painting conservation at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

The consensus of expert opinion seems to be moving towards the view that the Sistine Chapel has been renewed, not ruined. Once they have got their breath back, Signor Colalucci and his colleagues will probably be allowed to come to grips with the far more baleful expense of the Last Judgement, which Michelangelo painted in his old age when he was in deep fear of the judgement he would have to face shortly.

One more controversy faces the restorers as they move on to the end wall. Should they sweep away the lingers painted on by da Volterra 450 years ago? It flouts Michelangelo's concept, but after so long, it is an integral aspect of the history of the counter-Reformation. At an earlier stage, it was announced that modesty was to prevail, but the latest news is that no final decision has been taken. The battle over the knickers is one that could keep the Vatican in turmoil for years to come.



Face values: Controversy has surrounded the transformation of murky detail into an almost metallic intensity of colour.



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THE TIMES

TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

1 DIAGRAMS
In this puzzle, every straight line of five numbers add up to 320. What number should replace the question mark?
The missing numbers are: 64 58 57 71 70 67 61 69 59

2 VERBAL
Two words (below) have been overlapped. Both words have the letters printed in their correct order, but one word reads from left to right, the other reads from right to left. What are the two words?
H E O C R N N A B R A L E E N L D E C

3 LOGIC
A shopkeeper has £40.29 in change, made up of an equal number of five decimal coins of the realm. He has 17 coins of each value. What are five different coins?

4 MATHS
A motorboat is battling upstream against a current which flows at a speed of five miles per hour. The boat is 18 miles away from its destination and is travelling at a speed of 15 miles per hour. It uses two gallons of fuel per hour and has four gallons of fuel in the petrol tank. Will the boat reach its destination before the fuel runs out?

MISCELLANY
Who prevented the marriage between Anne Boleyn and Lord Henry Percy on the order of Henry VIII?

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THE BIRMINGHAM SIX

The release last year of the so-called Guildford Four inevitably drew attention to the six men convicted of the 1974 Birmingham bombings who are still serving life sentences. This attention has now led the Home Secretary, Mr David Waddington, to announce that new matters have come to his attention which justify further police inquiries.

The Birmingham convictions were vigorously challenged at the time and afterwards, and equally vigorously upheld by the Court of Appeal in 1988. Recent police inquiries into the conduct of the West Midlands serious crimes squad (some of whose officers were involved in the Birmingham cases) have now clearly undermined public confidence in those convictions. The Guildford affair showed how dangerously fallible a jury trial can be if the police have behaved with less than scrupulous integrity. This is particularly so when prosecution evidence relies heavily on alleged confessions made to the police, as in both the Guildford and the Birmingham cases.

Cold-blooded murderers of innocent people, in whatever cause, will surround their work with a veil of lies. In this case, the IRA has a special interest in casting doubt on the purity of English justice. The killing of 21 people by bombs planted in public houses in Birmingham in 1974 was, before Lockerbie, the worst such murderous attack in Britain since the war. Not only was a jury convinced of the guilt of the six, but the Court of Appeal expressed itself utterly confident that, even in the light of subsequent evidence, the jury had reached the right decision.

These are all good reasons for the Home Secretary to proceed cautiously. If he is satisfied that the new material put before him by the defence goes to the issue of guilt, the normal course for him to follow would be to refer the case back to the Court of Appeal. But this presents a fresh and important issue raised by Lord Scarman and Lord Devlin in connection with the Guildford Four, which has since dropped out of sight largely because those cases were resolved without it having to be addressed.

Those two illustrious legal figures com-

plained with great force, in an article in *The Times* in November 1988, that one of the barriers to justice for the Guildford Four had been the Court of Appeal's insistence on substituting itself for a jury, contrary to the intentions of the Criminal Appeal Act of 1968. A perverse legal doctrine had developed, they argued, that it was proper for appeal judges to ask themselves whether they believed in any new evidence, rather than ask themselves the question which Parliament intended in the Act: whether the new evidence ought to be looked at again by a new jury, together with all the original evidence.

This was a fundamental breach of the principle in common law that the judgement of fact in criminal proceedings on indictment must be by jury. Lord Scarman and Lord Devlin went back to 1670 to recall that Chief Justice Vaughan had mocked how "every man sees that the jury is but a troublesome delay, a great charge, and of no use in determining right and wrong, and therefore the trials by them may be better abolished than continued." It was, Vaughan added sarcastically, "a strange new-found conclusion."

Full retrials before a jury after a long period are best avoided, but in some circumstances justice demands them. The Court of Appeal appears to think it never does, on the grounds that judges — despite Chief Justice Vaughan's warning — can make all the decisions needed. But the final outcome of this court's handling of the Guildford Four did not add to public confidence in its procedures or its fairness-mindedness. Quite simply, the court appears to have gone wrong from a reluctance to expose the opinions of judges to the test of a jury trial.

The Home Secretary would be right, in consultation with the Lord Chancellor, to look again at the arrangements for criminal appeals in general, and to do so with the Scarman-Devlin objections in mind. Pending such a reform, if there are good reasons for the Home Secretary to doubt whether a jury would still have convicted the Birmingham Six, he should even consider, as an alternative to yet another referral to the Court of Appeal, the exercise of the royal prerogative.

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

Classical colonialism ended in Africa this week. Namibia's independence was greeted by an impressive, if incongruous, assembly of foreign dignitaries, tribal dancers and drum majorettes parading joyfully through the dusty streets of Windhoek.

The world's newest nation has much to celebrate. Its Government has been freely elected and will be subject to constitutional safeguards rare in Africa, including a two-term limit on the presidency and a strong bill of rights. Long may they survive the continent's reputation as a graveyard of such good intentions. Peace in Namibia also holds the prospect of an end to the civil war in its northern neighbour, Angola, from which, under the 1988 Namibia settlement, Cuba's 50,000 troops must now withdraw.

The claim by the UN Secretary-General that this event is a "triumph for the rule of law" none the less strains credulity. Nor, as has often been asserted, is it a triumph for the United Nations and its famous 1978 Resolution 435. Namibia is the child of *realpolitik*, and is probably the more secure for that: an example of what closed-circuit negotiations, backed by military pressure and discreet co-operation between the two super-powers, can achieve when the spirit is willing.

The eight-year involvement of Mr Chester Crocker, President Reagan's assistant secretary for Africa, to whom negotiating credit for the settlement should go, was expressly aimed at "linking" independence with Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola. This linkage was regularly denounced in the UN General Assembly and by African states and was achieved only when the Soviet Union decided firmly to commit itself, through its Cuban surrogates, to stemming the advance of South Africa's *Unita* surrogates in Angola. South Africa saw the writing on the wall and promptly sued for peace.

The new country will now lose not only direct South African budget subsidies but also the purchasing power of South African troops and the UN peace-keeping force. First among

its formidable tasks is to find jobs for the three out of five of its small population of 1.5 million who are formally unemployed. The outlook is not hopeless. The land itself, one and a half times the size of Texas, is potentially rich. Thanks to its South African masters, Namibia has a good infrastructure and more graduates than most African countries had at independence. It also has wonderful tourist potential. It is the fourth largest minerals producer in Africa, with large reserves of uranium, diamonds and base metals.

The most pressing need is thus for new investment, stern capitalist discipline and a moderation in the archaic Marxist ramblings of its new president, Mr Sam Nujoma. The last thing his country needs is the promise of "significant" state ownership in a mixed economy or any pressure for the automatic transfer of well-run white-held land to black ownership. The days of the old political religion are surely over in southern Africa.

Namibia will remain what it has long been, a relatively minor economic offshoot of South Africa, akin to Botswana or Swaziland. Nothing much is likely to happen in Windhoek without Pretoria's hand somewhere in the background. For the time being, this is probably no bad thing for Namibia's prosperity and stability. South Africa has been relatively scrupulous, both in honouring its commitments under Resolution 435 and in conducting an orderly withdrawal. This has been partly in the knowledge that withdrawal is political but hardly economic.

Namibia today is an excellent example of a minor country that demands the sympathetic neglect of the rest of the world. It does not want the inflation that massive aid would bring. It does not want lecturing or posturing or patronizing. Its future lies in maintaining good relations with its neighbours, particularly South Africa, in that rare phenomenon on the continent, a relatively prosperous region. New nations live in peace most successfully when left in peace.

GIVE AND TAKE

"The voluntary spirit of personal giving, of personal generosity, is part of the British character." Thus the Prime Minister two years ago. The voluntary spirit is apparently not enough, however, to survive unaided by the taxpayer: hence the encouragement in Mr Major's inaugural Budget this week and the resulting warm response from charities and the arts.

Under his new Gift Aid scheme, charities and arts bodies may "reclaim" income tax paid by donors on donations of between £600 and £5 million, while the donors themselves can claim relief from top rate down to standard rate. In effect, one-off gifts are thus to be treated the same as covenants. Along with other reforms, including VAT relief on equipment for medical care, medical research and sea rescue, the innovation should benefit the charities in Britain by an estimated annual £50 million.

The holy grail of charities tax reform — full personal tax deductibility for donations on the American model — is thus still held at bay by the Inland Revenue. The latter's aversion to spending public money through tax relief has long been respected by Chancellors of the Exchequer, however eager they may be to help their artistic and charitable friends and for all Mrs Thatcher's enthusiasm to encourage private giving.

In a nutshell, the Revenue and its Treasury masters believe that public money is better dispensed to good causes by cash-limited direct subsidies than by the reckless scatter of deductible private generosity. The man in Whitehall not only knows best but "gives" best. The Arts Council is a far finer conduit of

Treasury patronage than corporate sponsors and private donors.

This scepticism was reflected in Mr Nigel Lawson's pathetically inadequate Give-as-you-earn scheme. This enabled fixed and meagre sums to be regularly deducted (and tax-relieved) from pay packets and has received a poor response.

By the end of last year, fewer than 2 per cent of the potential contributors had signed up. The Charities Aid Foundation points out that in the USA, where such a scheme has been more successful, it developed only over a period of years. The slow start in this country is therefore comparable.

However, a more activist Chancellor has clearly now prevailed, albeit without overly offending the Revenue. The one-off donation is the most flexible form of giving. It responds to the emotional appeal or the carefully staged big fund-raising event, and Gift Aid should clearly be a help. As such, we must doubt whether any succeeding Chancellor will win more battles on this front.

What is now required is for the Government to tidy up the charities business in line with last year's White Paper on this topic. Of the 165,000 registered charities, it is likely that no more than 15,000 are still functioning.

The charities business is in a mess, and surrounded with suspicions of chicanery which could reflect badly on respectable ones. The Charity Commissioners will not put their own house in order. The Government must clearly force them to do so if the reinvigorated business of private giving is to flourish.

Censorship of Soviet mail

From Mr Arthur E. Smith

Sir, I have just received a letter from a correspondent in the Soviet Union which took 25 days to reach me. This is a slight improvement on the previous letter, which took 35 days. My correspondent informs me that all my letters reach him unsealed, since what he euphemistically calls the *pochtovaya inspektiya*, or postal inspectorate, still opens all letters from foreigners.

In pre-glasnost days we expected this and on one occasion a glorious bureaucratic mix-up led to my receiving a translation of one of my own letters, evidently made by a KGB censor and accidentally slipped into the envelope when I received a reply. But this continued censorship does not sit comfortably with Mr Gorbachev's avowed intention to join the community of nations.

The postal authorities in this country tell me that they can do little other than to draw the attention of the Soviet authorities to the delays. My correspondence is purely social and friendly, but there must be many business deals which are delayed or even aborted by this Soviet predilection for censorship.

Yours sincerely,
A. E. SMITH,
59 Keston Road,
Bath, Avon,
March 20.

Stigma of leprosy

From the Deputy Director of Leprosy
Sir, Catherine Adams's report on leprosy in Romania (March 13) perfectly illustrates the fact that the stigma attached to leprosy remains perhaps the greatest impediment to its successful treatment and eventual eradication.

However, she is wrong on one crucial fact: leprosy is not "an incurable disease". The multi-drug therapy (MDT) recommended by the World Health Organisation since 1982 is proven to "cure" most paucibacillary (non-infectious) patients within six months and most multibacillary (infectious) patients within two years. What it cannot, of course, do is to reverse disabilities caused by nerve damage in those sufferers who do not receive prompt treatment.

It is not surprising, given the strong association between leprosy and poverty, that the Ceausescu regime was loath to admit to the existence of a community of leprosy patients. Sadly for the world's estimated 12 million leprosy sufferers, most of whom live in the poorest countries, this combination of lack of available resources and the stigma of their disease means that less than a quarter of them are so far receiving the recommended effective treatment.

Yours etc,
FRANK BLACK,
Deputy Director,
British Leprosy Relief
Association,
Fairfax House,
Gaston Road,
Colchester, Essex.

Polytechnic cuts

From the Rector of the Polytechnic of Central London

Sir, As you correctly reported (March 16), the Polytechnic of Central London suffered the worst cash reduction (2.5 per cent) by the Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council of any polytechnic in the country.

This was because of its determination to maintain the high quality of the courses delivered to our students. This excellence has been attested by her Majesty's Inspectors in areas as diverse as engineering, art and design, and mass media courses.

By the usual criteria used to measure efficiency, such as student/staff ratio and unit costs, the PCL was already the first or second most efficient polytechnic in the country. In the past five years it has also been the most successful in being awarded additional students by PCFC's predecessor. This polytechnic has 21 per cent postgraduate students and was therefore disadvantaged because PCFC ignored the level of educational provision.

Thus the result of the new system is to take away students and funding from one of the most efficient and successful institutions in the country and place them elsewhere. Was the Government's intention really to penalise those who were already efficient and successful in order to provide additional students to less efficient institutions?

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE BURLIN, Rector,
Polytechnic of Central London,
309 Regent Street, W1.

Poll tax disquiet

From Mr Robert Breckman

Sir, Having just spent several hours trying to get my elderly in-laws to co-ordinate the information required to obtain a poll tax relief for small income earners, I regard the application forms as destined to make the aged panic and cause them considerable distress.

Photostats or originals are required of everything. Who, even in the best regulated households, has this documentary evidence at their fingertips? Absurd and irrelevant questions proliferate — e.g. "Where is your bedroom situated in your accommodation, e.g. front, centre, rear?" and "Is your bedroom on the left-hand side or right-hand side of your accommodation?"

Crisis in care of elderly and sick

From the Director of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Sir, The debate and the Government defeat in the Commons on residential care (report, March 14, later editions) gave full Parliamentary recognition to a crisis that voluntary organisations have warned the Government about for two years — namely that the level of income support provided by the Department of Social Security for elderly people and people with disabilities is inadequate to meet the costs of residential and nursing home care.

Voluntary organisations providing such care are being forced to absorb huge deficits — something they cannot sustain for much longer. Residents and their families are being forced to seek help from sometimes five or six different charities to meet the gap between the income support rates and the fees charged by the home — often after relatives' own savings have been exhausted.

This problem is not unique to a few homes in a few expensive parts of the country. The evidence clearly shows that it is widespread across the country and affects all client groups in need of residential or nursing home care.

The debate on March 13 focused on the problems facing

existing residents when new arrangements for funding and delivery of care are introduced in April, 1991. Just as real, however, is the crisis facing residents and voluntary sector providers now.

Unless the Government substantially increases the income support rates this April, above the already promised £10 per week, or finds an equivalent funding mechanism to bridge the gap, it will become more and more difficult for voluntary organisations and charities to continue with their excellent work in providing residential and nursing care for some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

No voluntary organisation wishes to evict any of its residents, but without some Government action this is the dilemma we will have to face.

Yours faithfully,
USHA PRASHAR, Director,
National Council for Voluntary Organisations,
Leonard Cheshire Foundation,
GEOFFREY DALTON,
Secretary General, Mencap,
KEN YOUNG,
Chief Executive, Spastics Society,
JIM COLLIER, Director,
National Federation Housing Association,
26 Bedford Square, WCI,
March 19.

Self-help at the top

From the Chairman of the Association of Chief Executives of National Voluntary Organisations

Sir, "Self-help is the loneliness of life at the top" (report, Technology, March 15) is, I am sure, an accurate reflection of how chief executives feel as managers of major commercial companies. This is also proving to be the case within the voluntary sector.

Unlike commercial companies, chief executives of national charities cannot be full members of their management board, to whom they are accountable, because of charity legislation. This often puts them in an even more isolated position, particularly if they are accountable to a group of volunteer board members who are perhaps committed to the "cause" but not the management of the organisation.

Farming today

From Mr C. R. Wace

Sir, One thing that Mr Heiney fails to mention of farming of 100 years ago ("A son of the soil in the making", Review, March 17) is the abject poverty and discomfort of the farm worker. His rural idyll was built on the sweat and labour of these men who had to keep their families in pitiful housing on very poor wages. If that is what Mr Heiney wants the countryside to return to, he should tell us.

We farmers have often bene-

fited from those who have joined us from other jobs; they bring in new ideas and money to implement them. I do not think that we shall be too influenced by Mr Heiney, because not only has farming become industrialised, so has the country as a whole. Mercifully, there is now no pool of cheap labour that his system demands.

Yours faithfully,
C. R. WACE,
Gables Farm, Hemblington,
Norwich, Norfolk,
March 19.

Peace in Israel

From Mr M. Kahlan

Sir, Does General Tillotson (March 13) really expect that a second Palestinian state controlling Nablus and Hebron, and only 14 miles from the sea, could bring much sunshine to the soft underbelly of Israel down below?

The General complains that Sharon "makes no positive suggestion as to how democracy is to be restored to the Arabs of the West Bank". When did they have it in the first place? And when he advocates that "both Arabs and Jews belong in Palestine" is he suggesting that, at last, Jews can now settle in that part across the river Jordan and which is currently called Jordan?

As for his hint that Israel should be able to depend for her security on international safeguards and guarantees, the General should recall how long it took U Thant to proceed with the evacuation of the UN forces in Sinai in 1967, when Nasser gave him the order. They were then supposed to be a safeguard. So thanks, but no thanks.

Yours faithfully,
M. KAHLAN,
32 The Green,
Ewell, Epsom, Surrey.

Irish courts

From Mr Barry Doyle

Sir, Once again some elected members of your country's respected Parliament have rushed to condemn a verdict of the Supreme Court in Ireland as evidence of some imagined default by the Irish Government in its obligation under the Anglo-Irish Agreement (report, March 13; letters, March 15).

Without expressing any view on the court's decision, may I say that this type of reaction gives rise to the most serious misgivings in this country as to how your elected representatives view the role of the courts. When British Govern-

Museum life

From Ms Dinah Bisdee
Sir, My children (aged nine and twins, five) and I quite often visit London's museums.

The "VDUs and interactive things", on which Simon Tait reports that the Director of the British Museum pours such scorn ("Another fine old mess", The Arts, March 18), greatly help their enjoyment and, I believe, allow them to think of museums as welcoming, interesting places. They particularly enjoyed "Creepy Crawlies" at the Natural History Museum and the Inuit exhibit at the Museum of Mankind, both of which had "life" in them and generated a lot of interest.

When I took them to the main British Museum it was a different matter. That museum was "dead", full of glass-cased exhibits, with hostile guards forbidding them from touching anything, and (to children) an unwelcoming atmosphere. They couldn't wait to leave, and, faced with their boredom, nor could I.

Yours faithfully,
DINAH BISDEE,
16 Elers Road, W13,
March 20.

ment ministers react in the same way the British Constitution itself must be under threat.

In Ireland the judiciary is independent of the Government and the legislature and acts to enforce the law, whether in accordance with or contrary to the wishes or stated requirements of the Government. This is a fundamental guarantee of constitutional rights.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY DOYLE,
T. T. L. Overend, McCarron & Gibbons (Solicitors),
9 Upper Mount Street,
Dublin 2, Irish Republic,
March 15.

England and Wales do not have the remedy of pointing available to them; instead they have to disown upon the goods and chattels of the debtor.

This procedure is also referred to as levying distress, which those faced with it will no doubt consider a far more appropriate description.

Yours faithfully,
SONIA GABLE (Tax Partner),
Philip George (Accountants),
City Gate House,
309-426 Eastern Avenue,
Ilford, Essex,
March 20.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

Harrow School development

From the Leader of Harrow Council

Sir, Harrow School has decided to proceed with its plans to erect a 480-seat theatre and 21 houses in the Harrow on the Hill conservation area, despite the strongest opposition from Harrow Council, residents and past pupils. This decision is symptomatic of the grave social issues affecting this borough and Greater London.

In the last decade, national trends supporting new home-building meant that numerous council planning decisions were overturned by the Department of the Environment on appeal — often in the face of strong objections from local people.

However, in response to pressure from Harrow, and other like-minded councils, the Government has come to accept that well-loved areas of exceptional character need protecting from an onslaught of bricks before they are destroyed for future generations.

Unfortunately, this change in planning policies may come too late for Harrow on the Hill. However, there must still be a strong hope that the great sway of public pressure will change the minds of those responsible for Harrow School, in line with modern attitudes towards conservation and environmental protection.

For its own part, Harrow Council has taken positive action to draw up its unitary development plan (UDP), setting out new planning policies to protect and enhance the borough. This month, consultation has taken place among residents on a new set of policy guidelines to direct and control development, and there has been an encouraging response.

Until Harrow's UDP is formally adopted in 1992 these outline policies will back up existing local plans and help to protect the area from unnecessary and uncharacteristic developments.

Once these policies are in place I am confident that Harrow Council, and the residents whom it serves, can rely upon far greater support from the Department of the Environment. The borough will then be spared from thoughtless and destructive developments such as is currently proposed for Harrow on the Hill. Yours sincerely,
R. GRANT, Leader,
Harrow Council,
PO Box 2,
Civic Centre,
Harrow, Middlesex,
March 16.

Honesty in business

From Mr R. W. Kent

Sir, Dr von Zuebach, of the Glasgow Business School, tells us in his letter about the Harrods affair (March 17) that lying, if breaking no law, "must be judged as the normal and proper behaviour of competent and responsible entrepreneurs". He suggests that it is the responsibility of others not to be duped.

Two nights ago, an 18-year-old boy told me some lies in order to get himself out of minor trouble, but I was not duped. I told him that above all else his future employers would demand integrity; and that, although we all make mistakes, our response to the consequences should not be deceit. I hope I convinced him.

Dr von Zuebach and I are both teachers. Which of us is correctly preparing young people for their future roles in society? Yours faithfully,
RICHARD KENT (Senior Housemaster, Cheltenham College),
Newick House, Sandford Road,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,
March 17.

First-class post

From Miss Kate Baldwin

Sir, With reference to Mrs McIntyre's letter (March 20), last Christmas my fiancé and I sent a card to a friend in the Royal Navy, based in Plymouth. Although we had visited him on a number of occasions, we did not have any record of his address.

Accordingly, I addressed the envelope, "The Red Office, with a post box in its front wall, next to the shop, which is next to the pub, on the High Street, Sparkwell, Nr Plymouth".

The card was delivered safely, and on time.

Yours faithfully,
KATE BALDWIN,
Flat 8, Eversholt House,
Grove Road,
Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire,
March 21.

In case of need

From Mr E. L. R. Rix

Sir, Mr Tom Ruben (March 12) need not fear that his experience indicates any sudden change of policy or dark designs by British Rail. Over 20 years ago I and my family were travelling down from Scotland. As dinner showed no sign of materialising two of my sons went to investigate. They appeared some minutes later dressed in white coats and proceeded to serve dinner to the whole car.

They did not share the tips but were given free dinners by the sole grateful member of the official staff. The others had failed to turn up.

Yours faithfully,
E. L. R. RIX,
Grove House,
Sellingdale, Nr Ashford, Kent,
March 16.

THE ARTS/FILM

David Robinson reviews *Always*, *A City of Sadness*, *Strapless*, *Tango and Cash*, *Rude Awakening*, *Judgment in Berlin* and *Abel*

Spielberg takes a flyer on nostalgia

Steven Spielberg's gift for anticipating popular taste has rarely failed him, so there must be a good reason for remaking a popular success of nearly 50 years ago. *A Guy Named Joe*, written by Dalton Trumbo and directed by Victor Fleming, was made in 1943, and had Spencer Tracy as the ghost of a pilot killed in action, who gives spiritual guidance to an inexperienced flier with whom his own bereaved girl falls in love.

The only major change in Spielberg's *Always* (PG, Plaza 1) is to bring the story up to the present, setting it among pilots who fight forest fires. The Spencer Tracy role is taken over by Richard Dreyfuss, the girl, originally Irene Dunne, is Holly Hunter. Brad Johnson, as the young pilot, is a lumbering cowboy type, whose faux pas and exorable John Wayne impersonations are winning.

Audrey Hepburn, charming as ever, is the cheery guardian of a rather wishy-washy world beyond, carpeted with wilting daisies. The 1943 version of heaven had Lionel Barrymore as its crusty C-in-C.

A sense of the past pervades the film. Perhaps it comes from hangovers of the original dialogue and sentiment, or the use of

antiquated Second World War 'planes; or "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes", which is the theme song. The original used "I'll Get By", but was apparently refused by the Irving Berlin estate.

In 1943, this story of life, love and sacrifice continuing cheerfully after death — with a special exhortation not to let fidelity to the dead inhibit relationships with the living — found a natural response in a wartime public. Spielberg has frequently set out to exorcise our most deep and secret common fears; and death after all is the ultimate fear, in or out of war. Perhaps *Always*, too, has brought death closer to the experience of young people.

Spielberg disarms most misgivings about the sentiment with his skill as entertainer. There is a persistent, leavering of robust comedy, mostly provided by bawdy John Goodman in the old Ward Bond part.

The film certainly surpasses the original when it comes to the flying scenes, which are spectacular, unremittingly exciting and with a clarity of action rare in aviation dramas. The forest fires were partly filmed during the catastrophic 1988 conflagrations in Yellowstone National Park.

Audrey Hepburn: "charming as ever, is the cheery guardian of a rather wishy-washy world beyond, carpeted with wilting daisies", in *Always*

Acting under 'the will of heaven'

At the Venice Film Festival last year, *A City of Sadness* won the main prize, confirming Hou Hsiao-hsien as the main cinematic talent to emerge in the Far East in the 1980s.

It is a demanding and difficult film for Western audiences, very far from his endearing *Summer at Grandpa's*.

The film sets out to recreate, through the saga of one family, the whole played-out post-war history of the island of Taiwan — successively, liberation from Japanese domination, invasion by crime and corruption from mainland China, violent conflict between islanders and mainlanders, and then bloody political suppression by the Nationalist Government.

To follow all the extended family relationships, not to speak of the complex political background, demands exceptionally close application from the viewer.

It helps that the central figures — the family's stone-deaf son and his fiancée whose notes to him

provide a continuous commentary — are beautifully played and compellingly charming.

The director writes that he wanted "to capture on film how men act under 'the will of heaven'", and this he achieves, with a wealth of detail and some memorable scenes both of violence and sentiment.

He has created a style to suit his epic subject: the film is largely filmed in wide shots, in uncut tableau scenes skilfully photographed to focus on the multiple action going on in different parts of the set. It is sometimes hard going, perhaps, but rewards the effort.

Strapless (15, Curzon West End) sounds like a saucy Forties revue, but is in fact a new David Hare study of a woman in search of commitment. Dr Lillian Hempel (Blair Brown) is a 40-

year-old American doctor, working in a fund-starved NHS hospital in London. Her feckless, slobbish younger sister (Bridget Fonda) has moved into her flat and disrupted her life.

On holiday in Portugal, she meets a seemingly rich but very mysterious stranger (Bruno Ganz), who whisks her into a late-life romantic liaison — which anyone else might predict will lead to no good.

The style of the film is realistic; but neither the characters nor the events have much relation to reality; and everyone in the story behaves in a strangely disconnected way. There is, too, a sense of contrivance in the past, morally instructive confrontations of birth and death, the sister's reformation, the heroine's last-reel discovery of strength to surmount her private troubles and commit her-

self to social action, and the eventual explanation of the un-subtle imagery contained in the film's title.

Andrei Konchalovsky has travelled a long road from his Russian youth (writing *Ivan's Childhood* and *Andrei Rublev* with Andrei Tarkovsky) to *Tango and Cash* (15, Warner West End, Cannons Haymarket, Oxford Street), a low-level formula cop movie, notable only for teaming Sylvester Stallone and Kurt Russell as the reluctant buddies who crack the drug gangsters. Stallone affects spectacles, sharp suits and a lighter personality, with several smart one-liners and jokey references to his own films.

Rude Awakening (15, Odéon Marble Arch), directed by David Greenwalt and Aaron Mazou, is a good-natured comedy about a couple of Rip Van Winkle hippies

who return from 20 years' exile in the wilds of South America, to find their old companions corrupted by the yuppie materialism of the Eighties.

Eric Roberts — a fine actor who never quite makes the star parts — gives a good tragicomic performance as the one who still believes in the old idealism. Cheech Marin is his permanently stoned sidekick, and there are nice character bits from Buck Henry and Louise Lasser.

Recent history has rather overtaken *Judgment in Berlin* (PG, Cannon Tottenham Court Road). Set in the late Seventies, it is about the trial in West Germany of a young East German, desperate to emigrate, who has hijacked a Polish plane and forced it to land in West Berlin — to the great satisfaction of many of his fellow-passengers.

The script is adapted from a book by the actual trial judge, and appears to be based on fact — which may explain why the complex legal manoeuvres of the court-room scenes which dominate the film are intriguing but not very dramatic.

Judge (Martin Sheen) and verbose defence counsel (Sam Wanamaker) battle to frustrate the political efforts of both Western and Eastern blocs to engineer a conviction. The performances are good, with Sean Penn's brief scene as a student defector outstanding. The film is directed, at best serviceably, by Penn's father, Leo Penn.

Abel (15, Metro) is an anachronistic, absurdist and very winning Dutch farce, written and directed by Alex Van Warmerdam, who also plays the lead role of the grown-up spoilt brat who refuses to go outside the door of his parents' apartment.

The comedy lies in Abel's vicious manipulation of his parents; and is good fun until it runs out of steam after the first hour.

A killing for Curtis

VIDEO BOX

Geoff Brown

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release or, in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

THE BOSTON STRANGLER (CBS/Fox, 18): Director Richard Fleischer's split-screen antics were not made for video, but the film is saved by Tony Curtis's eerie performance as the schizophrenic killer and the exciting parapsychia of a big-city manhunt, 1968.

COBRA VERDE (Palace, PG): Klaus Kinski as a disgruntled South American rancher who takes his revenge through banditry. A pale copy of Werner Herzog's earlier exercises in adventure, jungle fever and visionary dreams, 1988.

GIRL ON A MOTORCYCLE (Castle, 18): Near-legendary tosh from 1968, with Marianne Faithfull tightly wrapped in black leather speeding down highways for a meeting with love and death.

HALLLOWEEN II: THE RETURN OF MICHAEL MYERS (Braveworld, 18): Psychiatrist Donald Pleasance battling the psychotic killer accurately described as "Evil on two legs". Pudding fare for the gore brigade, 1989.

HIDER IN THE HOUSE (Vestron, 18): State and tedious psychological thriller, though Gary Bussey tries hard to please as the madman secreted in the attic of a renovated house, 1989.

QUEEN OF HEARTS (MGM/UA, PG): Family life among London's Italian community, seen through a young boy's eyes. First cinema feature of considerable charm by director John Amiel (best-known for *The Singing Detective* and other TV classics), 1989.

THE RAINBOW (Vestron, 15): Ken Russell returns to his old stamping ground — D.H. Lawrence — after a thrashcan run of Gothic nightmares. Scholarly handled, beautifully mounted, though Sammi Davis is a bit stretched as the teenager questing passionately for sexual liberty and independence, 1989.

THE STAN LAUREL CENTENARY COLLECTION (Virgin Vision, U): Fascinating group of four Hal Roach shorts from the pre-Hardy days when Laurel was less of a dunderhead, and more a dashing young man about town.

WILT (Guild, 15): Modestly successful version of Tom Sharpe's comic novel, set in the dingy provinces. Griff Rhys Jones cuts a nimble figure as the sardonic university teacher set up for a murder; Mel Smith mugs too much as the cross investigating detective, 1989.

David Robinson talks to Sir Richard Attenborough about his film *Cry Freedom*, now being officially released in South Africa, three years after the rest of the world

Freedom has merely been delayed

Almost three years after its original release, Richard Attenborough's film *Cry Freedom* will at last be officially released in South Africa. At the same time it goes on video release in this country.

"As a historical fact," Sir Richard recalls, "it did actually open in South Africa in 1987. We applied for permission to show the film, and for six months we passed from one department to another. But no one would make a decision. So the distributors, UIP, went ahead and announced the picture."

"Then the censorship board passed it, though it had still not received formal approval. Forty-eight hours before it was due to open, the Government asked the censorship board to see it once again — obviously hoping that they would decline to pass it, and so solve the problem. But the censorship board approved it."

"This was on Friday. On Saturday the film opened in 30 cinemas across South Africa, all packed. Soon after the shows began, the police walked in and confiscated every copy. In some places the audiences saw the film through, but generally it was interrupted after only an hour. They used the excuse that there was a bomb or something."

"So that was that — until four weeks ago, when the secret police arrived at the door of the UIP office and handed back the film. So it will open at the end of April. It will be fascinating to see the reaction now — though many people have already seen it: there

are hundreds of pirate videos throughout South Africa."

Both Attenborough and Donald Woods — the exiled South African journalist whose experiences inspired the film — in which he is played by Kevin Kline — feel confident that *Cry Freedom* can now make a fresh political contribution. "I think it can be a big help to both sides — both Mandela and De Klerk," says Donald Woods, "mainly in telling white South Africans a lot of things they still don't know. They have simply not had access to information. The recent revelations about the police death squads were a big shock to many of them."

Attenborough confirms that point. "Some of them are ignorant to a point you cannot believe. We showed the film to one South African whom Donald knows very well. He came out afterwards very moved, streaming tears. 'Great film Donald,' he sobbed, 'only there are terrible mistakes. You must take out that scene where white police are hitting black women with truncheons. That would never happen. You'd never see a white policeman hit a black woman with a truncheon.'"

"It's people like him we want to see the film. The people who are going to affect what happens now are the centre section. It is terribly important that these people — who have been comforted by the things De Klerk has done — realize that only when the state of emergency has been ended and when political prisoners have been released will the cornerstones of apartheid be removed."

Attenborough is exasperated by official British attitudes. "How dare they, when they know the brutality and oppression that still exists, and when the state of emergency is still in force. I would certainly not wish to denigrate De Klerk; but to suggest that all the admiration and respect should be lavished on him, to talk of 'rewarding' him and by the same token to marginalize Mandela is extraordinary, unforgivable."

He does not know if the British Prime Minister has ever seen the film. "For the premiere we invited equal numbers of MPs from the three main parties. We got a 100 per cent refusal from the Conservative Party, a 60 per cent yes from the middle and a 90 per cent yes from the Labour party."

"We thought perhaps it was a fluke — that the Conservatives, who were after all governing the country, were too busy. So we sent out the same number of invitations to other Conservative politicians. The same response: I don't think one came."

"In America the film was the most diabolical failure in the theatres. Even in the areas where one might have expected interest — Atlanta, for instance — the audiences did not come. Perhaps black people did not want to resurrect what they had been through themselves in the Sixties."

But everywhere else in the world it has been an extraordinary success. The West German Chancellor told us, "After seeing your film there can be no question

about one's emotional reaction, that sanctions have to be maintained." The same thing happened in Japan and Sweden.

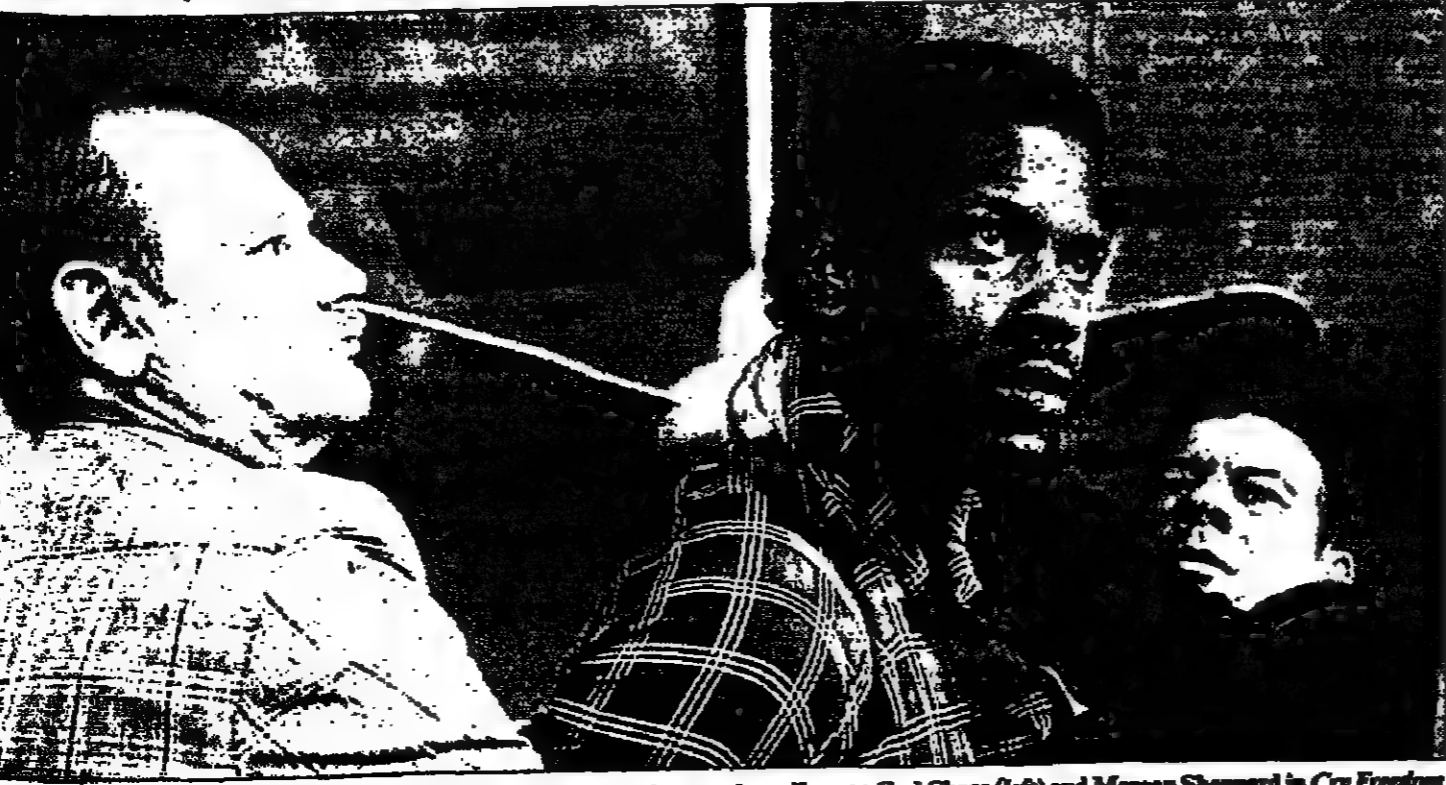
"So even if the film will never make it into the Box Office Top 500 in *Variety*, I'm very proud of the fact that we made it. The statistics of the anti-apartheid movement show that wherever it has been shown recruitment has rocketed."

"What I care about in my films is the content. I don't pretend to be an auteur film maker, but I have to express myself through the cinema — it's the only way I can talk about the things that matter to me. And if people think that I make unimaginative, old-style narrative films, I really don't mind. But if they denigrate the content, then I get upset and belligerent."

"I think that *Cry Freedom* — it's not a very good title, in fact — was a statement very much worth making at that time. People in the ANC think that it has had a profound effect. And if that is so, then it was worth making."

"I hope it has a historical place. Maybe in 20 years time — please God! — apartheid won't exist; but we must never forget that it did exist, just as we must never forget that Hitler existed. And the film is a record of that, whatever people's views of it."

Donald Woods is once again free to return to South Africa with his family. He was recently invited to resume writing for his old paper, *The Despatch*. He began his first article with the words, "As I was saying when I was so rudely interrupted..."

Richard Attenborough discusses the profound effect of *Cry Freedom* with Winnie Mandela in South AfricaDonald Woods as Steve Biko (centre) falls into the hands of the security policemen Carl Chase (left) and Morgan Sheppard in *Cry Freedom*

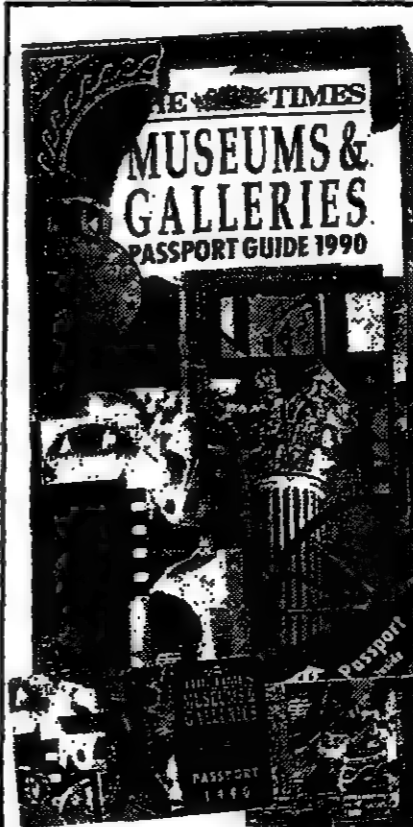
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Year	Actual (%)	Projected (%)
1950	~10.5	~10.5
1960	~11.5	~11.5
1970	~12.5	~12.5
1980	~13.5	~13.5
1990	~14.5	~15.5
2000	~15.5	~17.5
2010	~16.5	~19.5
2020	~17.5	~21.5
2030	~18.5	~23.5
2040	~19.5	~25.5
2050	~20.5	~27.5

HEALTH

The contraceptive Pill was designed in the Sixties to be harmless, simple and reliable. How do we feel about it in the Nineties? Ann Kent reports

It is 40 years since Dr Gregory Pincus, an American biologist, was invited to devise the ideal contraceptive. His sponsors, the Planned Parenthood Movement, stipulated that the new method should be "harmless, entirely reliable, simple, practical, universally applicable and aesthetically satisfactory to both husband and wife."

Within a few years Dr Pincus was able to report that he had achieved his objective, and in 1960 the first commercially produced oral contraceptive, Enovid 10, was launched in the United States. Thirty years ago this week it began tests in Britain, using 50 volunteers recruited from family planning clinics in Birmingham. The first British version, Conovid, was officially launched the following year, in October 1961.

The Pill was welcomed not only as the ideal contraceptive, but as a force for the liberation of women. For the first time women were free to explore their sexuality, without the fear of unwanted pregnancy. Dr Clifford Kay, of the Royal College of General Practitioners, remembers how soon doubts set in. "At first everyone said the Pill was wonderful and had no side effects, and of course that turned out to be nonsense. When we started to evaluate it, one nasty thing after another seemed to turn up. But at the same time we discovered dozens of beneficial effects which were totally overshadowed."

In 1968 Dr Kay set up a study involving 46,000 married women, of whom half were on the contraceptive Pill. Their medical histories have been followed ever since, and regular reports on their progress are published. His own results, and those of others, have led him to believe that in the future the Pill could be promoted not only as the most effective means of birth control, but as an important way of preventing disease.

"The latest research suggests that taking the modern, low-dose Pill actually reduces mortality in non-smokers. For the very first time, we are able to say that on balance the Pill is good for you," he says. "If, as a doctor, you can combine the Pill with a determined effort to get women to stop smoking, or indeed never to start, we can offer them the most effective method of contraception there is and say it will actually benefit their health."

Dr Carlos Huezio of the International Planned Parenthood Federation agrees: "The Pill has saved a lot of lives, and there is some evidence that women who take it are generally healthier than those who do not. This is a message which family planners need to put across."

Last October America's cautious Food and Drug Administration changed its Pill recommendations to state: "The benefits of oral contraceptive use by healthy, non-smoking women over 40 years of age may outweigh the possible risks. However, all women, especially older women, are cautioned to use the lowest-dose Pill that is effective."

In Britain, the Family Planning Association recommends that the Pill is safe for non-smokers up to the age of 45, although some individual doctors prescribe oral contraception for older women.

Yet despite all this optimism, concern about the Pill rumbles on, fuelled at regular intervals by the publication of alarming research reports. These concern not only the women who are on the Pill now, but the millions who have used it in the past and wonder about lingering after-effects.

Martin Vessey, professor of community medicine at Oxford University and a world authority on the Pill, has drawn on a vast amount of published data to establish a balance sheet of risks and benefits.

He estimates the increased risk of heart attack, thrombosis or stroke among women using the low-dose Pill as between one-and-a-half and two times the normal risk. However, these increased risks mainly affect smokers, do not seem to be influenced by the length of time the Pill is taken, and do not linger after

DOCTORS CLASH IN THE BIG CONTROVERSY ON CONTRACEPTION

The Pill: 3 new warnings

YOU'RE BEING GIVEN A GUINEA PIG

Birth pills get American 'all clear'

FDA Approves Sale of 'Pill' For Contraceptive Use

'500,000 WOMEN IN BRITAIN USE IT'

More than 500,000 women in Britain use the oral pill.

Administration has approved the oral steroid pill for contraception. On the steroid's effectiveness and by Dr. Gregory Pincus of the Harvard Medical School, in research grants. The U.S. agency has approved the use of any one of the following brands: Enovid, Ortho-Bicor, and others.

Dr. Pincus, who has been a leading proponent of the Pill, says that the Pill is safe for non-smokers up to the age of 45, although some individual doctors prescribe oral contraception for older women.

Yet despite all this optimism, concern about the Pill rumbles on, fuelled at regular intervals by the publication of alarming research reports. These concern not only the women who are on the Pill now, but the millions who have used it in the past and wonder about lingering after-effects.

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Thirty years on the Pill

the Pill is discontinued. In 1988, out of a total of 138,000 women who died of circulatory diseases in England and Wales, only 857 were under the age of 45, and most of them would probably have been advised against the Pill.

Vessey says that taking the Pill for more than eight years may quadruple the chances of developing liver tumours — and the risk probably persists after the Pill is stopped. However, only about 200 women a year die of liver tumours in England and Wales, and very few of them are of childbearing age.

The effects of the Pill on cervical cancer are disputed. Taking it for more than six years may increase the risk by 50 per cent, and that risk

may persist after the Pill is stopped. However, abnormal cells in the cervix can be identified and removed before they have a chance to become malignant, provided women have regular cervical smears — every three years at least.

The greatest controversy surrounds the effects of the Pill on breast cancer (see the box below).

On the credit side, the Pill offers protection against cancers of the endometrium and ovaries — and appears to be protective even after it is no longer taken.

So how do all the risks of Pill-taking measure up against all the benefits? Professor Vessey's balance sheet assumes that a million women use the Pill from the age of 16 to the

age of 35, when they or their partners are sterilized, while another million 16-year-olds rely on condoms until the age of 35, when they or their partners are also sterilized. He then estimates the mortality risks in each group up to the age of 50.

According to his calculations, the protective effects of the Pill against ovarian and endometrial cancers will save 1,497 lives. He adds another 131 lives saved by avoiding the hazards of unwanted pregnancy. On the debit side, Professor Vessey subtracts 202 lives lost as a result of Pill-induced liver cancer, and 186 lives lost as a result of heart attacks, strokes and thrombosis. This latter figure assumes that modern Pills

BREAST CANCER — THE GREATEST WORRY

Breast cancer is the joker in the pack whenever the risks and benefits of the Pill are assessed. Much is made of the Pill's undoubted protective effects against cancers of the endometrium and ovary. But breast cancer, believed by some researchers to be associated with the Pill, kills more than twice as many women as those two diseases combined.

It is the commonest cancer among women, claiming 15,290 lives a year in the UK. It is also a complicated disease, and many factors apart from the Pill are known to influence it. If she starts her periods young, avoids pregnancy, and has a later menopause, she will have a higher than average risk of breast cancer. Other risk factors include having a mother or sister who has had the disease, especially before the menopause; certain types of non-malignant breast disease; and delaying first childbirth beyond the age of 30.

However, it is hard to avoid the fact that a number of studies now suggest that women who start taking the Pill under the age of 25 are at greater risk of developing breast cancer while still in their thirties. At a time when market research suggests that seven women out of 10 in the under-24 age group choose the Pill as a method of contraception, breast cancer is a serious concern.

Clair Chilvers, senior epidemiologist at the Institute of Cancer Research, believes that young women should take a cautious approach to the Pill. Ms Chilvers was

one of the authors of the UK National Case Control Study, published last year, and one of several to reveal a link between breast cancer in young women and the use of both high and low-dose Pills. Chilvers advises any woman who started the Pill under the age of 25 and has been on it for more than four years to consider another method. "It may well be that after considering it, she decides that she wants to carry on with the Pill, and that is fine. My advice is erring on the side of safety."

Troubling questions remain. Are the unfortunate women who get breast cancer early simply suffering an acceleration of a disease which would have occurred anyway? Or will the same group of women continue to show increased levels of breast cancer as they age? The Pill users of the Sixties tended to be older when they started the Pill, and to stay on it for shorter periods. This means we will need to wait until the year 2000, when the young Pill users of the 1970s reach the menopause, to know the answers. Sir Richard Doll, an authority on disease patterns, has said he has no doubt that four to five years' use of the Pill does increase the risk of breast cancer under the age of 35 by 60 to 70 per cent. He also feels, on the basis of evidence gathered so far, that there is no increased risk of breast cancer in women who are now aged 45, who took the Pill many years earlier; but that there is uncertainty about the risks faced by women now aged between 35 and 44. Further research is needed.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Making old bones younger

A shelf carefully positioned by a middle-aged couple may well be out of reach of one or both of them by the time they reach old age, for the loss of bone density, and with it stature, strikes men as well as women. Both sexes can take general measures — regular brisk exercise, a calcium and protein-rich diet, the avoidance of smoking or alcohol in excess — to lessen the likelihood of becoming bent and frail, but for women, who suffer more often than men, there can be the added precaution of taking hormone replacement therapy (HRT). Bone density in women is partly dependent on their oestrogen level, as it declines around the menopause, so the bones

become brittle. The decision to take HRT involves balancing the risks of its side effects against its proven advantages, which extend well beyond a reduction in the fracture rate. Few fail to prescribe HRT for a woman who has had an early menopause, possibly after a hysterectomy, for in these cases arteries as well as bones are jeopardized by oestrogen lack but conversely most would be reluctant to recommend it to a woman who has a strong family history of cancer of the breast and nodular bosoms. In

between these two extremes, balancing the equation becomes more difficult, but in every case HRT has to be tailored for the individual.

The Princess Grace Hospital in London is to start just such a bespoke tailoring service for women. The Osteoporosis and Menopause clinic will, when established, be run by a multi-disciplinary team: Dr Jean Ginsberg, an endocrinologist; Dr Clive Bartram, a radiologist; and Dr Hedley Berry, a rheumatologist. A long-established mammography (breast X-ray) service is already there.

The doctors' decisions will be made easier by the use of a new X-ray technique, quantitative digital radiography. This measures bone density very accurately, but with only minimal exposure to radiation, so that repeat examinations can be carried out either to monitor progress of treatment, or to detect sudden changes in bone density which can occur in a woman even though previous measurements were acceptable. The X-ray examination is very simple, and takes only 30 minutes. There are no injections, no suspending the limb in icy water, no ghostly gruels to be drunk or injections survived; the patient does not even need to undress.

With an MRI scanner, training could be scientifically monitored; analysis of the metabolites in the muscles would show whether a horse's poor performance was due to staleness and over-training, or if it was under-trained and unfit. The correct use of this machine, the Harley Street physician, who trained as a nuclear physicist before he became a doctor, is now working with an American team to translate this knowledge to horse racing. In theory it should be possible to build a giant scanner to predict which horses had the right muscle composition to make winners, and which would always be a waste of trainers' time and owners' money.

In pursuit of perfection

DOSAGE

One of the problems which has dogged research into the Pill is the fact that the dose has changed so much over the years. The first Pills, used in the early Sixties, contained 150 mcg of mestranol (oestrogen) and 10mg of norethynodrel (progestogen). At the end of 1969 doctors were asked to ensure that women used combined oral contraceptives containing not more than 50 mcg of oestrogen. As a result, vast numbers of them switched brands. From the mid-Seventies women started to switch again, this time to the new "low-dose" Pill, containing 30 mcg or 35 mcg of oestrogen. These are still the type prescribed to the vast majority of Pill-users.

The Seventies also saw the arrival of the progestogen-only Pill (Pop) — sometimes known, confusingly, as the mini Pill. The research which has been carried out suggests that it could be the safest Pill of all.

Phased Pills arrived in the Eighties. These are ultra low-dose varieties in which the ratio of progestogen to oestrogen changes during the

21-day course of the Pill

The Eighties also saw the advent of oral contraceptives containing only 20 mcg of oestrogen. Unfortunately, these are not suitable for everyone, because they can unacceptably disrupt the woman's bleeding pattern.

At the same time, concern shifted from the effects of oestrogen to those of progestogen, and the Pill manufacturers have responded by developing new and allegedly safer versions of these hormones. Much of the vast body of research into the long-term effects of oral contraceptives is based on these 50 mcg Pills.

However, some of the more recent studies have been able to assess the impact of the newer low-dose Pills and the results, according to Prof Martin Vessey of Oxford University, are "encouraging".

The most commonly used Pills of the Nineties are expected to use about 30 mcg of oestrogen, about a fifth of the dose of the Sixties Pills, and about a twentieth of the dose of progestogen.

THE PAST

1961: approved for use in Great Britain.

1962: 50,000 British women on the Pill. They tend to be married, middle-class, and using the Pill to space their pregnancies.

1969: a million British women on the Pill. The Family Planning Association mandates its clinics to advise single as well as married clients.

1974: the NHS foots the bill for contraceptive treatment and advice from family planning clinics.

1975: the Pill is the nation's most popular birth control method, used by 36 per cent of single women and 30 per cent of women who are or have been married. 1977: Pill use starts to decline sharply as a result of reports of adverse effects.

1988: family planning clinics report that Pill use is lower than at any time in the previous 10 years.

1989: the Pill is still the preferred method of seven out of 10 women under the age of 24, and four out of 10 in the 25 to 29 age group.

BETTER THINGS TO COME

The next decade should bring us methods with all the Pill's advantages but none of the side effects. Walli Bounds of the Margaret Pyke Centre in London, a senior researcher into new birth control methods, believes many problems have arisen because the Pill has to be taken by mouth. When a pill is swallowed, it is absorbed from the gut wall into the portal vein, from where it passes into the liver. Part of the hormone dose is then inactivated by the liver enzymes, while the remainder is circulated via the bloodstream.

Mrs Bounds explains: "Our research has shown that one woman, taking exactly the same Pill as the next, can end up with 10 times more hormone in her blood. This explains why some women suffer side effects while others do not, and why a very tiny minority of women get pregnant even though they are taking the Pill properly." She believes the future lies with finding different ways of getting the Pill hormones into the bloodstream, such as skin patches impregnated with hormones which pass through the skin and into the bloodstream, and hormone-loaded polymer rings to wear in the vagina.

Malcolm Pike, professor of preventive medicine at the University of Southern California, believes that the lessons learnt the hard way from the Pill could be used to save lives in future. "The Pill has taught us that if you manipulate hormones in a particular way you can achieve an amazing reduction in cancers of the endometrium and ovary. Somehow we need to understand how to use the same hormones to achieve a reduction in breast cancer."

Paradise found and lost

For 200 years, since the day when Fletcher Christian and his Bounty mutineers landed at Pitcairn, a community has flourished on the remote Pacific island. At one time the

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numbers grew so that the island could scarcely support them. Today there are just 49 islanders and the viability of the population is in question. In *The Times* on Saturday Michael Brooke, recently returned from a seven-week visit, reports on life on Pitcairn.

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Scanner race

For the past 15 years buying a scanner has been the objective of a thousand and one local fund-raising activities. The scanner which the Round Table generally hopes to provide for the community is the CAT scanner, which is dependent on the use of X-rays. Recently the advantages in some branches of medicine of using an MRI scanner, which relies upon magnetic resonance, has become apparent. It gives better definition than a CAT scanner, and the patient is spared even small doses of X-radiation.

In neurology MRI has proved excellent for detecting small intra-cranial tumours; it can make a definite diagnosis in early cases of multiple sclerosis, and spinal disc lesions can be accurately staged without the discomfort, or occasionally hazardous, X-ray procedures. In orthopaedics the inside of a knee joint can be seen without even the disruption caused by an arthroscope — loose or split cartilages in the joint, torn ligaments and foreign bodies are all revealed. Hips and shoulders, too, can be examined without invasive surgery. Dr Brian Kendall, consultant neuro-radiologist at the National Hospital for

Nervous Diseases, cautions that these spectacular advantages have to be weighed against increased cost, for the outlay on an MRI scanner is high and maintenance very expensive. The other disadvantage is that in some patients the scanning could induce claustrophobia, for they have to disappear into a noisy tunnel for up to 15 minutes at a time. The use of the MRI technique is spreading beyond medicine. It is adept at analysing wine, and has enabled EC inspectors to monitor the sugar content of Beaujolais; but its most startling effect might well be on horse racing. Already the physical stamina of small animals have been assessed by

using an MRI scanner to analyse the proportion of slow and fast-reacting muscle fibres, and to study the way in which these muscles behave when exercised. The results show whether the animal is likely to be fast or slow, a sprinter or a stayer.

One Harley Street physician, who trained as a nuclear physicist before he became a doctor, is now working with an American team to translate this knowledge to horse racing. In theory it should be possible to build a giant scanner to predict which horses had the right muscle composition to make winners, and which would always be a waste of trainers' time and owners' money.

BRITISH DIABETIC ASSOCIATION RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED FEBRUARY 1990

- DR N E CAMERON, DR M A COTTER, DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
"The effects of treatments that increase blood flow on peripheral nerve function in experimental diabetes."
£51,878 over three years.
- DR A DEMAINE, DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE, KING'S COLLEGE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, LONDON
"A study of the structure and function of the Na⁺/H⁺ Antiporter and its role in diabetic nephropathy."
£43,705 over two years.
- DR E GALE, DEPARTMENT OF DIABETES & IMMUNOGENETICS, ST BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, LONDON
"Prediction of insulin dependent diabetes."
£26,500 over five years.
- MR D W R GRAY, DR M DALLMAN, NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY, JOHN RADCLIFFE HOSPITAL, OXFORD
"The role of cytokines in the destruction of islets by immune processes."
£57,330 over three years.
- DR G D HOLMAN, DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY, UNIVERSITY OF BATH
"Relationship between insulin and glucose levels in the control of glucose transport in adipose tissue and in cultured cells."
£14,480 over three years.
- PROFESSOR P H SONKSEN, DR R H JONES, DR C LOWY, DEPARTMENT OF ENDOCRINOLOGY & CHEMICAL PATHOLOGY, ST THOMAS' HOSPITAL, LONDON
"Changes in glucose and protein metabolism during normal pregnancy and pregnancy complicated by gestational diabetes."
£70,250 over three years.
- DR I R WOODGETT, MR K HUGHES, LUDWIG INSTITUTE OF CANCER RESEARCH, LONDON
"Regulation of Protein-Serine Kinases and Phosphatases by Insulin."
£27,902 over 18 months.

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PREVIEW

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OPERA

Hilary Finch

LONDON

THE GAMBLER: Revival of David Pountney's searing Prokofiev production sees the return of Graham Clark. St. Edwards Church, London WC2 (01-836 3161). Tonight, 7.30-9.50pm, £2-23.

ELEKTRA: Final night of highly gripping, concentrated evening of Strauss in Götze Friedrich's tunnel-production. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1088). Tomorrow, 8.45pm, £2-23.

LA TRAVIATA: Last chance to see David Pountney's thoughtful and searching production with Helen Field as Violetta. Coliseum (as above). Tomorrow, 7.30-10.30pm, £2-23.

L'ELISIR D'AMORE: Last chance to see Pavarotti in John Copley's lively revival. Covent Garden (as above). Sat, Tues, 7.30-10.30pm, £2-23.

THE MIKADO: Strongly cast revival of Jonathan Miller's witty, Hollywood-style 6 & 3 production in which Titipu is located in a 1920s English hotel. Coliseum (as above). Sat, Wed, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, £2-23.

OUTSIDE LONDON

THE MERRY WIDOW: Heavy-handed production for Opera 80. Heather Lorimer and the young cast work hard to salvage some semblance of style. Corn Exchange, Ipswich (0473 215544). Tonight, Sat, 7.30-10pm, £5-25.

COSI FAN TUTTE: Welsh National Opera's interestingly cast revival features Valerie Masseron and Bryn Terfel. St. Charles Music Centre, Cardiff (01-222 2061). Wed, 7.15-10.15pm, £2-22.

ODIPUS REX/BLINDHEARD'S CASTLE: Stanzas Lazzarini both designs and directs Scottish Opera's doubly powerful double bill of Stravinsky and Bartók. Empire Theatre, Liverpool (051 709 1555). Tonight, 7.15-10.15pm, £5-21.

DIE FLEDERMAUS: Revival of Scottish Opera's fun production by Simon Callow. Watch out for George MacKay's Orlofsky. Empire (as above). Tomorrow, 7.15-10.15pm, £2-23.

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE: Welsh National's harum-scarum production by Giles Haverall with Kate McCann and Anthony Michaels Moore. Carlo Rizzi conducts. Apollo (as above). Tomorrow, 7.15-10.30pm, £2-22.

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR: Opera 80 offers a compact, visually striking

production which nevertheless over-stretches its young cast.

Corn Exchange (as above). Fri, 7.30-10.15pm, £5-25.

LA FORZA DEL DESTINO: Scottish Opera's powerful new production in which John Mauceri conducts Verdi's original prelude and final scene. Empire (as above). Sat, 8.45pm, £2-22.

DIE NOISEKAVALIER: Welsh National's traditional production by Wolfgang Weber is conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras in Oxford and Andrew Greenwood in Southampton. Apollo (as above). Sat, 8.30pm, £2-22.

DIE FREISCHUTZ: Welsh National's traditional production by Wolfgang Weber is conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras in Oxford and Andrew Greenwood in Southampton. Apollo (as above). Sat, 8.30pm, £2-22.

DIE FREISCHUTZ: Welsh National's traditional production by Wolfgang Weber is conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras in Oxford and Andrew Greenwood in Southampton. Apollo (as above). Sat, 8.30pm, £2-22.

DANCE

John Percival

SPRING LOADED: Action Syndicate offer a female view of cricket (tonight, Sat, 8pm). Liz Rankin and Phil Griffin perform a "mini-musical" by John Escott (Fri, Sat, 10pm). Kim Brandrup's *Peer Gynt* is his first long work (Tues, Wed, 8pm) (see feature, p.16).

THE PLACE, DUKE'S ROAD: London WC1 (01-387 0031). 22, late shows 25.

LONGEVITY: Gary Lambert's new duet for Rambert Dance Company is based on Martin Luther King. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (01-278 8916). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, £1-21.

SCOTTISH BALLET: Two works by Balanchine and Petipa's *Paquita*. Theatre Royal, Hope Street, Glasgow (041 331 1234). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, £2-17. New Theatre, Hull (0482 226655). Tues, Wed, 7.30pm, £5-20.

NORTHERN BALLET THEATRE: Christopher Gable's *Giselle* at Poole; a mixed bill including *La Strada* and *La Fille du Gard*. Towngate Theatre, King's Road, Poole (0202 855222). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, £7-21.

SWANSON: Christopher Bruce's gripping dance drama and other works for English National Ballet. Covent Garden, Worthing (0903 35333). Tomorrow, Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, £2-25. Arts Theatre, Cambridge (0223 382000). Wed, 7.30pm, £7-23.

LA TRAVIATA: London City Ballet open a week at Sadler's Wells with André Prokofiev's dance drama on Dumas's story and music by Verdi. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (01-278 8916). Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, £4-16.

ENI GALA: Celebrating English National Ballet's 40th year: guests from France, America, Canada, Germany and Russia.

BEST SELLING BOOKS

For the week ending 16 March 1990

FICTION	
1 <i>Thomas Regained</i> , John Mortimer	Viking £13.99
2 <i>Lazarus</i> , Morris West	Hammond £12.95
3 <i>The Winkler</i> , Peter Jones	Faber £12.99
4 <i>The Only Victim</i> , Alexander Kent	Hammond £12.95
5 <i>History of World in 100 Chapters</i> , Julian Barnes	Cape £11.95
NON-FICTION	
1 <i>Michael 1990: Britain</i>	Michelin £ 8.95
2 <i>Green Fire</i> , Oliver Taplin	Cape/Channel £14.95
3 <i>Reluctant Emperor</i> , Warren Tute	Collins £16.00
4 <i>Levi's Power</i> , Michael Liff	Hodder £12.95
5 <i>Around the World in 80 Days</i> , Michael Palin	BBC £13.00
PAPERBACKS	
1 <i>The Potter's Field</i> , Peter Ellis	Headline £ 5.99
2 <i>Colin Clark's Hobbies and Restaurants</i> , Egon Ronay	AA £10.95
3 <i>Big Road Atlas Britain 1990</i>	AA £ 4.95
4 <i>Good Gardens Guide 1990</i> , Graham Rose	Barrington £ 5.99
5 <i>A Season in Hell</i> , Jack Higgins	Pan £ 5.99
6 <i>The Music Programme</i> , Paul Mico	Black Swan £ 4.99
7 <i>Ca's Eye</i> , Margaret Atwood	Virago £ 3.99
8 <i>Gardens, England and Wales</i> , National Gardens Scheme	Arrow £ 5.99
9 <i>Cathedral Country</i> , Catherine Cookson	Corgi £ 5.99
10 <i>The Harrogate Secret</i> , Catherine Cookson	Corgi £ 5.99

Source: Hachards, 187 Piccadilly, London W1

Story carved from suffering

The life and work of sculptress Camille Claudel and her tragic love affair with Auguste Rodin are the subject of a new production, *Make Me a Statue*, by Victoria Worsley (pictured here) and Caroline Ward. Trained with Philippe Gaulier and Monika Pageux, they founded the women's theatre company Tattycorum in 1986 and have built a reputation for challenging and unconventional work. Co-written by Ward, the piece is performed solo by Worsley. Claudel's relationship with Rodin produced some of Europe's most famous sculptures. When it ended after 10 years, although she continued to work, she smashed her work in fits of destruction and became a recluse, living in squalor. Her family had her committed to a lunatic asylum. Letters she wrote to her family revealed her inner torment and confusion. The piece draws on elements from horror movies, black comedy, slapstick and opera. Ward says that it "is very much about her as an artist, and her and Rodin... it's not a blamey piece." The setting has Charlotte Mall's immense white sculpture copies of Rodin's "Balzac" and "The Thinker" in a dark forbidding room, the moving figure in white, with white wig and body paint. ICA, The Mall, London, SW1 (01-930 3647). Tonight to Saturday, 8pm, £5.60 (£1 day membership).



Worsley: visiting writer Charles Margate

Albert Hall, London, 01-588 8212. Tues, 7.30pm, £15, £25.

ROYAL BALLET: Re-opens with Dorey Russell in *Prince of the Pagodas*. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1088). Wed, 7.30pm, £1-24.

CANINIA FLAMENCO: Spanish Dance Company headed by Mariano Torres. Barbican Hall, London EC2 (01-536 8881). Wed, 8pm, £5-17.50.

HEADINGS

Cris Cheek

THE POETRY SOCIETY: Top "Liverpool poet", Brian Patten, reads from his new book *Grinning Jack* (tonight); Ed Dorn and Nathan Zuck: Dorn's *Gunslinger* is one of the most challenging, downright enjoyable and achieved long poems to come from the UK in the past 25 years. Alongside Israel's Black prize-winner (1981) (Tues).

THE POETRY SOCIETY: 21 Earls Court Square, SW5 (01-370 6823). Tonight, 7.30pm; Tues, 7.30pm, £2.50 (£2 concs), £1.25 members.

STEVEN PHILLIPS: Discusses Sunday in the Park With George. Lyttelton Theatre, South Bank SE1 (01-222 2222). Tonight, 8pm, £2.50.

THE VOICE OF THE MOUNTAIN: and poet, Andrew Greig, whose *The Order of the Day* is a Poetry Book Society spring choice (tonight). Debutant Randall and John Sewell in New Voices series (Wed). The Voice Box, Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (01-222 8800). Tonight, Wed, 7.30pm, £2.50 (£1.50 concs).

ICA: Michelle Roberts talks to *Life Show* presenter Sara Dunant about her new novel, *In the Red Kitchen*, based on the life of 19th-century medium Florence Cook (today). Catcher's Priest in discussion with Nigel Poyd over his latest novel, *The Quiet Woman* (Tues). ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (01-530 3647). 7pm, £1.80 (plus £1 day membership).

MICK BLANK: *Madness* recalled by *Birth Marks*, his debut collection, published last year. Debutant Randall and John Sewell in New Voices series (Wed). The Voice Box, Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (01-222 8800). Tonight, Wed, 7.30pm, £2.50 (£1.50 concs).

MECHANIC: "Venge Recomes One Piece": poetry and music for Oxford's Central America benefit week (tomorrow).

row; visiting writer Charles Margate

Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Beaumont Street, Hacham, Northampton (0434 508787). Tomorrow, 8pm; Mon 2.30pm, £2 (£2 concs).

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF EMILE ZOLA: A one-day seminar for Zola aficionados, following the formation of The Emile Zola Society. Queen's Hall, Northampton, 0434 508787. Tomorrow, 10am seminar, £2.50.

THE MIND EDGE CLUB: This week features Ian Gleason, Les Kendrick (visiting from California), Lindsay Macneil (ex-Angels of Fire), Harry Powell, Tony O'Brien, MC Jo Calvo (Professor of Physical Linguistics, Pangea University). The Red Lion (upstairs), 20 Great Windmill Street, W1 (01-791 0121). Mon, 8.30pm, £2.50 (£1.50 concs).

FERNIE ASZKAR: Energetic, sharp and witty poet performs his own rants and lyrics. Wooden Lamb, Barons Ale House, Comeragh Road, W14 (01-741 5823). Tues, 8pm, free.

DOCTOR S.W. FREEMAN: Scottish writer and critic discusses 18th century Edinburgh poet Robert Ferguson. Poetry Association of Scotland, 27 George Square, Edinburgh (031 334 5241). Wed, 7.45pm, £1.

PERFORMANCE ART

Ghislaine Boddington

ANNE GRIFFIN: *Almost Paraphrase*. A true performer and witty and sharp writer. Anne Griffin gives an evening to laugh at and be challenged by. T22, 20-22 Highgate Corner, London N5 (01-700 5718). Tonight 7.30pm and 10pm (late bar), 25 in advance, 25 on door. Until April 18: weekly performances Tues-Thurs.

ABOUT DIVERSE WOMEN IN TIME: Last events of a week of strong women performance artists and film makers, featuring Jane Parker, Tina Keene and Hannah O'Shea's "interception/intercession", looking at Irish identity and gender film and video programme 10pm-11pm daily in video studio. Community Arts Centre, St Peter's Square, Lancashire Polytechnic, Preston (0772 201201, ext 2468). Today 2pm, tomorrow 2pm and 8pm, £2.50 (£1.25 concs).

YOKO ONO: *The Shimmer Age Objects and Acts*. Exhibition of objects, wall texts and stills of her film and performance work of the Sixties and new bronze works and participation pieces. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, London W6 (01-748 3854). Until April 22, free.

GLORY WHAT GLORY: *Merle Res*. Exploring ideas that history is continuously rewritten - two scenarios surge towards the earth they left 30 years ago. The Green Room, 54-56 Whitworth Street West, Manchester (0161 236 1677). Tonight, 8pm, £2.80 (£2.80 concs). ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (01-930 3647). Tues until March 31, 8pm, £5.60, (£4.60 concs), plus £1 day membership.

RIVCA RUBIN AND COMPANY: *Ring o' Roses*. Three people battle it out in a forest of roses shifting between the dream and the real. Tomorrow, Sat, 8pm, £2.80 (£2.80 concs).

MIME

THEATRE COMPANY: *Executive Street*. What starts out as a mundane day's work in the "wonderful plastic toy company" turns into an adventure of epic proportions. (see Southampton and Northampton) Also *L'Amour*, *Maska*, music and a modern re-working of *commedia dell'arte* all set on a huge stage sitting in an Italian restaurant. (see Glasgow).

THE GENTRY: *Bleed*. Tonight, 8pm, £2.80 (£2.80 concs). Northampton Arts Centre, Booth Lane South, Northampton (0604 407544). Sat, 8pm, £4.50 (£2.50 concs). Tues, 8pm, £2.80 (£2.80 concs). ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (01-930 3647). Tues until March 31, 8pm, £5.60, (£4.60 concs), plus £1 day membership.

BLACK NINE THEATRE: *Blackbird*. Broad look at schizophrenia and the responses to it in the black community. Little World School Theatre, Browning Road, Manor Park, London E12 (01-478 9024). Tonight, 7.30pm, £2 (£1 concs). Most Community Centre, Leicester (0533 620708). Tomorrow, 7.30pm, £2.50 (£1.50 concs). Sat, 8pm, £2.95 (£1.95 concs). Wed, 7.30pm, £2.50 (£1.25 concs).

Compiled by Karl Lloyd

• Home for inclusion should be sent at least 10 days before publication to Tony Patrick, Preview, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9JN

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's selection of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country.

NEW RELEASES

ALWAYS (PG): Spielberg's plush but pointless remake of *A Guy Named Joe* with Richard Dreyfuss as a dead pilot returning to earth. Plaza (01-497 9699).

CELA (15): Powerful Australian portrait of a rebellious child in a restrictive society. Striking debut by director Ann Turner. Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 5148) Metro (01-497 0757) Odeon Kensington (01-502 6644/5).

CONQUEST OF THE SOUTH POLE (12): Imaginative Scottish version of Manfred Karge's play about unemployed youths finding new hope through fantasy. Electric (01-792 2020).

WEEKEND AT BERNIE'S (12): Rough-and-ready black comedy about yuppies trying to hide their boss's demise. Andrew McCarthy, Jonathan Silverman. Odeon: West End (01-930 3252) Kensington (01-502 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905).

ENCOUNTER AT RAVEN'S GATE (15): Muddled science-fiction from young Australian film makers, with some decent visual effects. Cannon: Chelsea (01-352 5096) Oxford Street (01-636 0310) Prince Charles (01-437 8181).

BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY (18): Dynamic anti-Vietnam epic on Oliver Stone, with Tom Cruise excellent as paraplegic Ron Kovic. Camden Parkway (01-267 7034) Cannon: Baker Street (01-835 9772) Fulham Road (01-370 2636) Empire (01-487 9959) Gate (01-727 4043) Screen on the Green (01-226 3630) Whiteleys (01-792 3303).

CINEMA PARADISE (PG): Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian cinema: a hugely appealing salute to the movies. Curzon Mayfair (01-465 8865).

DANCE THRU THE DARK (15): Why Russell's thin but bizarre comedy-musical set in a Liverpool dance hall. Cannon: Chelsea (01-352 5096) 5148 Warner (01-439 0791) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

DRIVING MISS DAISY (U): Jessica Tandy as the prickly Southern lady with a black chauffeur (Morgan Freeman). Completed, endorsing. Cannon: Shaftesbury Avenue (01-536 8861) Mincine (01-235 4225) Screen on the Hill (01-435 3366) Warner (01-439 0791) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

A DRY WHITE SEASON (15): Donald Sutherland wakes up to apartheid's horrors. Powerful thriller from André Brink's novel. Curzon West End (01-439 4805).

THE FABULOUS BAKER BOYS (15): Highly diverting fireworks from a blonde singer (Michelle Pfeiffer) and two cocktail pianists (Jeff and Beau Bridges). Odeon: Haymarket (01-533 7587).

FAMILY BUSINESS: Curate's egg comedy-drama about a family of crooks (Cusack, Connery, Dustin Hoffman, Matthew Broderick). Cannon: Shaftesbury Avenue (01-536 8861) Odeon: Shaftesbury Avenue (01-536 8861).

GLORY (15): Edward Zwick's impassioned salute to the black Americans who fought in the Civil War: powerful performances. Cannon: Chelsea (01-352 5096) Shaftesbury Avenue (01-536 8861).

HONEY, I SHRUNK THE KIDS (U): Miraculous children battle through their garden to safety. Engaging special-effects romp.

Odeon Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905) Cannon: Shaftesbury Avenue (01-536 8861) Odeon: Shaftesbury Avenue (01-536 8861).

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA (15): Lorca's play about a widow and her six daughters: fine acting, but tedious cinema. Premiere (01-439 4470).

JESUS OF MONTREAL (18): Passion Play trouble in Montreal. Obvious but elegant satire from director Denis Arcand. Renoir (01-837 8402) Barbican (01-636 8881).

LIFE AND NOTHING BUT (PG): The emotional aftermath of the First World War, sensitively explored by director Bertrand Tavernier. Premiere (01-439 4470).

PARENTHOOD (12): Ron Howard's episodic heart-warmer about family life. Steve Martin heads a sterling cast. Cannon: Oxford Street (01-636 0310) Plaza (01-487 9959).

PLAFF: High-pitched satirical lunacy from Cuba, about a combative mother-in-law assailed by nuns. ICA Cinema (01-930 3647).

RENEGADES (15): Tough cop and bad boy team to rescue a sacred Indian spear. Lame thriller, starring Kiefer Sutherland. Cannon: Haymarket (01-533 1527) Fulham Road (01-370 2636) Oxford Street (01-636 0310).

SEA OF LOVE (18): Cop (Al Pacino) and murder suspect (Ellen Barkin) fall in love. Atmospheric, runchy thriller. Cannon: Baker Street (01-835 9772) Oxford Street (01-636 0310) Plaza (01-487 9959) Notting Hill Coronet (01-727 6705) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

SHADOW MAKERS (12): Roland Joffé's compelling account of Oppenheimer (Dwight Schultz) perfecting the atom bomb; Paul Newman towers on the sidelines. Empire (01-487 9959) Cannon: Fulham Road (01-370 2636) Oxford Street (01-636 0310).

STEEL MAGNOLIAS (PG): Female gossip and tears Down South. Overly sentimental, though some performers place (Julia Roberts, Olympia Dukakis). Odeon: Kensington (01-502 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905) Cannon: Chelsea (01-352 5096) Haymarket (01-533 1527) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

THE SUMMER OF AVIVA (PG): El Cohen's prize-winning film about a young girl facing up to the Holocaust. Phoenix (01-888 2233).

TROP BELLS POUR TOI (18): Gérard Depardieu toys between his wife and mistress. Stylish score on marital mores from Bertrand Blier. Camden Plaza (01-485 2443) Chelsea Cinema (01-351 3742) Lumiere (01-836 0691).

THE WAR OF THE ROSES (15): A perfect marriage self-destructs violently. Exhausting black comedy, with Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner. Odeon: Leicester Square (01-830 5111).

WHEN HARRY MET SALLY (15): Romantic comedy with a brittle touch. Meg Ryan, Billy Crystal. Cannon: Chelsea (01-352 5096) Piccadilly (01-437 3551) Odeon: Kensington (01-502 6644/5) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324) Warner (01-439 0791).

IN REPERTORY

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE (01-292 3535): Joseph Losey's brooding melodrama *Eve*; Cruise and Newman in Scorsese's *The Colour of Money*.

RITZY (01-737 2121): Ishikawa's dazzling period drama - An Actor's Revenge.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2133

ACROSS

- 1 Seaside (6)
- 4 Have resources for (6)
- 5 Community charge (4,3)
- 10 "Dreamer's fruit" (5)
- 11 Objectives (4)
- 12 Santa New Year's Eve (8)
- 13 L.L. Leventhal's record story (4,3,6)
- 17 Vogue jargon (4,4)
- 19 Statue's tooth (4)
- 21 Previous (5)
- 22 Make use of (7)
- 23 Create (6)
- 24 Vagueish (6)

DOWN

- 1 Bare-breasted (7)
- 2 Without cargo (7)
- 3 Intense dislike (4)
- 5 Lamer whole phase (4,4)
- 6 Frequently (5)
- 7 Good-looking (5)
- 8 Moral rearmament (6,5)
- 13 Madame Tussauds (8)
- 17 Two-footed animal (5)
- 18 Ex-Belgian Congo (5)
- 20 Chiffoness (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 2132

ACROSS: 1 Dish 3 Shock 8 Casuals 10 Rooney 11 Runt 12 Grow 13 Sals 15 Bangle 17 Out 19 Good 20 Look 23 Zebra 24 Deadpan 25 Brute 26 Sky

DOWN: 1 Disgrace 2 Sham 4 Hecrowish 5 Cross 6 Star 7 Aye-aye 9 Saus 10 14 Flagrant 15 Bronze 16 Groupie 18 Tuber 21 Kink 22 Dark

WORD-WATCHING

Abstract from page 22

FENNIEC

(b) The name of an animal, *Canis caride*, found in Africa, resembling a fox, but having very long ears, from the Arabic *fennec* applied to various animals.

WEIRD

(a) A lie or exaggeration, from *weird* (ancient for weird customs in the works of Robbe Grasse: "In your teeth, hypocrite. Just your words, or I'll commit more heinous crimes.")

DURGAN

(a) An undernourished person or animal, a dwarf, evidently derived from a form of *dur* (Flemish, *Ten Thun*: "A dwarf, just your words, or I'll commit more heinous crimes.")

ANTA

TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Susan Thomson and Gillian Maxey

A mixed bag of detectives

Peter Waymark

TECX (ITV, 9.00pm) is made by a British company, Central Television, based in Birmingham and Nottingham, and concerns a detective agency, based in Brussels, set up by an Englishman and a German (played by an Austrian actress) and work for a law firm run by a



Founders of TECX: Rob Spence (left) and Urbano Barberini (ITV, 9.00pm)

Frenchwoman. The only thing missing from this transparent attempt to boost Central's overseas sales is an American element, although Jenny Agutter (who turns up next week) lives in California. For all its cosmopolitan pretensions, however, TECX is largely studio-based, establishing shots of Brussels notwithstanding, has a dislocated feel. Tonight's story has our sleuths investigating an oil tanker fire which looks suspiciously like an insurance fraud. The plotting is predictable and the dialogue full of phrases such as "Suspicion is not enough, find me some evidence". The putative villain is Dutch, although whether this will help sales in the Netherlands must be a moot point.

A 10-part series on the enduring legacy of ancient Greece, Greek Fire (Channel 4, 11.30pm) warns us its theme with a mixed bag of references, from the Apollo space rocket to the town of Sparta, Wisconsin, and Freud's Oedipus complex. A meandering and sententious commentary is brought down to earth by the contributions of academics including Sir Kenneth Dover and Professor George Steiner. The programme should be on firmer ground from next week when it begins tackling specific topics, such as science, religion, politics and war.

An intriguing 40 Minutes film, *Many Happy Returns* (BBC2, 9.30pm), is about two children who claim to have had a previous life. Nicola, from Yorkshire, insists that she was once a boy and describes in authentic detail playing with a dog by the railway track. Tina, a six-year-old from India, says she was married with two children and ran a radio shop. The programme follows up both stories and finds a surprising amount of corroboration. (BBC2, 10.10pm) charts the rise of the answerphone from the two-and-a-half poundweight monsters of the early 1950s to today's slimline models. It seems that many of us, confronted by a tape, still freeze and fail to go through with the call. It's called technophobia.

BBC

6.00 *Cee-fax*.
6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayer. Includes regional news headlines, business reports, sports bulletins, regional news, travel and weather information. Paul Cullen reviews the morning newspapers. 6.55 Regional news and weather. 9.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. Viewers comment on yesterday's television. To contribute ring Eamon Holmes on 061 814 0424.

9.20 *Kilroy*. Robert Kilroy-Glick chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject. News and weather followed by *Children's BBC*, introduced by Simon Parkin, begins with *Playdays* at the Patch Stop (r) 10.50. *Jimbo and the Jet Set* (r) 10.55. Five to Eleven. Edward Fetherbridge with a reading.

11.00 News and weather followed by Open Air presented by Eamon Holmes and James Irving. 12.00 News and weather followed by *Daytime Live*. Alan Titchmarsh visits Alexandra Palace, the birthplace of world television, and talks to Bernard Greenfield, one of the first engineers to work there. 12.55 Regional news and weather.

1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Brown. 1.30 *Night News*. It's Christmas in Ramsay Street and Mark and Jane give everyone a reason to celebrate; and Henry makes one last desperate attempt to win Bronwyn's affection (Cee-fax).

1.50 *Going for Gold*. Henry Kelly introduces the grand final of the European quiz show. 2.15 *Film: The Strawberry Blonde* (1941 b/w) starring James Cagney, Olivia De Havilland and Rita Hayworth. Romantic comedy set in the late 19th century about a dentist who comes to love with the man who dived him for the affections of a blonde woman 10 years earlier. Directed by Raoul Walsh.

3.30 *Charlie Chalk* (r) 4.00 *New York Bear Show 4.15* What's Your Story? with Sylvester McCoy. 4.30 *Disco Highlights*. More mayhem at Hepp and Wall's seaside hotel, with special guest Tim Matthews.

4.55 *Newsround*. 5.00 *Blue Peter*. Yvette Fielding, John Leslie and Diane Louise Jordan launch the Green Scheme and the *Blue Peter Green Book* (Cee-fax). 5.30 *What's Your Story?*

5.55 *Six O'Clock News* (r). (Cee-fax). 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Anne Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather. 6.30 *Regional News Magazines*. 7.00 *Top of the Pops* with Gary Davies (simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1).

7.30 *EastEnders*. Ian and Cindy are on the move; there is chaos when the Michells decide the market must relocate; and at last there is news of Diana (Cee-fax). 8.00 *Tomorrow's World*. Includes a report on Brazil's efforts to safeguard the future of its rainforests, and a look at a new video being compiled by the Department of Transport. With Judith Hann, Kate Bellingham, Howard Stabileford and Peter Macann.

8.30 *Brush Spokes*. Jack meets Lucia's family at her birthday party and agrees to arrange a birthday date for her uncle with Veronica, and Lesley starts work at Elmo's wine bar (Cee-fax).

9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Martin Lewis. Regional news and weather. 9.30 *Budget 1990*. Alan Beith, MP, makes a statement on behalf of the Liberal Democrats.

9.40 *Ben Elton - The Man from Auntie*. The fast-talking comedian touches on more topical and comical subjects. 10.10 *Question Time*. Peter Sissons is joined by Lord Bonham-Carter, Foreign Affairs spokesman in the House of Lords; Sarah Hodgson, Economics Editor of the *Daily Telegraph*; Nicholas Ridley, MP, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry; and John Smith, MP, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer.

11.10 *Cagney and Lacey*. When they investigate a strange death, Mary Beth and Chris discover a pornographic movie in the making. However, Chris does not share her partner's enthusiasm for unearthing witnesses. Showing Tyne Daly and Sharon Glass (r).

12.00 *Weather*.

ITV LONDON

6.00 *TV-am* begins with *Good Morning Britain* presented by Richard Keys and, from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Lorraine Kelly. With news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00. *Daybreak* on Two: Local Studies. 9.40 *The 19th Century*. 10.00 *Robots*. 10.30 *Faith and Beliefs*. 10.40 *Nuts and bolts*. 11.00 *The history of kitchen technology*. 11.20 *A profile of Evanston, Wyoming*. 11.40 *The arrival of a new baby*. 12.00 *Graphic design*. 12.25 *Embryo research*. 12.50 *Secondary science*. 1.20 *PC Pinkerton*. 1.55 *Animal Fair*. 1.40 *Musical-making*.

2.00 *News and weather* followed by *Watch* (r) 2.15 *Antiques Roadshow* (r). (Cee-fax). 3.00 *News and weather* followed by *Westminster Live*. 3.30 *News*, regional news and weather. 4.00 *International Snooker*. Wales v Australia. David Ikin introduces further coverage of the British Car Rental World Cup. 5.00 *It Doesn't Have to Hurt* (r). (Cee-fax).

5.10 *Horizon: British Greenhouse* (r). (Cee-fax). 6.00 *Comic Relief*. Cabby (1983 b/w) starring Sidney James. The neglected wife of a cab driver secretly sets up a rival all-female taxi firm. Directed by Guy Verity. 7.30 *9 to 5*. A unique way to avoid commuting is investigated. 8.00 *News*. Includes a report on the possible risks to people living near high-voltage power lines. 8.30 *French and Saunders*. All is revealed in *What Ever Happened to Baby Dancer?* With Kirsty McColl and Ray Sear. 9.00 *40 Minutes: Mary Hare's Return* (see Choice). (Cee-fax).

10.10 *Small Objects of Desire: The Budget*. An explosion at a record shop gives the *Junior Gazette* the chance to cover a powerful news story (Oracle). 10.30 *Budget 1990*. Alan Beith, MP, makes a statement on behalf of the Liberal Democrats. 10.40 *Newsnight*. 11.25 *The Late Show*. 12.00 *News*.

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SATURDAY

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SUNDAY

6.00 *The Channel Four Daily*. 9.25 *Schools*. 12.00 *The Parliament Programme*. 12.30 *Business Daily*. 1.00 *Sesame Street* with guest Richard Dawson. 2.00 *Bhagwan: My Dance is Complete*. A documentary on the controversial guru, Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, who died recently. Deported from America, he re-settled in India, where a huge following, mostly white foreigners, gathered to hear him speak (r).

2.30 *Channel 4 Racing* from Doncaster begins at 2.35 with the Philip Cornes Brocklesby Stakes; 3.05. Racecourse Handicap; 3.35 Doncaster Mile; and 4.10 Racecourse Handicap Book Stakes. Introduced by Derek Thompson, with commentary by Graham Goode, John Oaksey and Jim McGrath.

4.30 *Countdown*. Words and numbers quiz hosted by Richard Whiteley. 5.00 *Treasure Hunt in Kent* (r). (Oracle). 6.00 *News and Tidy*. In the last episode of the series enemies chase Tena and Nick across high seas, but Nick is more concerned with his powers of attraction (r).

6.30 *Kate and Allie*. Allie joins a political campaign, but it seems she is more interested in the candidate than his policies (r). 7.00 *Channel 4 News* with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. 7.30 *Comedian* followed by *Weather*. 8.00 *Great Film Source - Know Thyself* (see Choice).

8.30 *The Crystal Maze*. Six more contestants endeavour to overcome as many obstacles as possible in the adventure game with Richard O'Brien. 9.30 *Film: Vroom* (1989) starring Clive Owen, David Thew

BUSINESS

SECTION 2

THURSDAY MARCH 22 1990

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-32
● LAW 38
● SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 33-36
● SPORT 39-44

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5945 (-0.0165)
W German mark
2.7247 (-0.0080)
Exchange index
85.5 (-0.5)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1771.4 (-6.2)
FT-SE 100
2250.3 (-9.4)
USM (Datastream)
142.83 (-1.18)
Market report, page 30

BP 'could help Opec'

British Petroleum and other international oil companies could give financial help and technical assistance to state oil companies in Opec member countries, says Mr Robert Horton, BP's new chairman. He fears a shortage of oil in three or four years because some Opec countries lack resources to develop reserves.

Horton challenge, page 28

Laporte ahead

Profits at Laporte rose 17 per cent to £100 million before tax and exceptional items in the year to December on sales up a fifth at £617 million. A final dividend up 2p at 10.7p makes 16.5p, up a fifth.

Temps, page 24

Bowthorpe up

Bowthorpe Holdings lifted pre-tax profits 11 per cent in the year to end-December to £44.5 million. A final dividend of 3.59p makes 5p (4p).

Temps, page 24

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones 2740.88 (+2.25)
Tokyo
Nikkei Average Closed
Hong Kong
Hang Seng 2528.02 (+46.89)
Australia
CBS Tendency 114.7 (-0.8)
Sydney: AO 1587.7 (-8.3)
Frankfurt DAX 1597.99 (+29.16)
Bremen
Glasgow 611.18 (-45.58)
Paris: CAC 517.72 (-1.54)
Zurich: S&K 802.0 (-0.3)
London
FT-A All-Share 1115.80 (-4.88)
FT-30 1771.4 (-6.2)
FT-100 2250.3 (-9.4)
FT-1000 89.14 (-0.43)
FT-10000 75.91 (-0.88)
Borsa Italiana
Closing prices
Page 30
Page 31

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISE:
Copper 85p (+10p)
Produce 480p (+27p)
British 582.5p (+33p)
Doves & Newman 545p (-20p)
FALLS:
British 329p (-8p)
Evers of Leeds 185p (-8p)
Hammerson 'A' 700p (-11p)
Preston 277p (-10p)
Strong & Fisher 330p (-12p)
Mora O'Farrell 402p (-10p)
WPP 638p (-11p)
ENF 187p (-10p)
Thorn EMI 702p (-10p)
Lange 610p (-11p)
Pearson 645p (-11p)
Thomson Corp 735p (-20p)
Capitol Radio 158p (-13p)
Carlton Comm 585p (-10p)
Henderson Adm 785p (-10p)
Borland 987p (-22p)
Closing prices
Bergs 25023
SEAG Volume 447.0m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 15%
3-month interbank 15.15-15.2%
3-month eligible bills 14.15-14.2%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 9%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.96-7.94%
30-year bonds 100-100.1%

CURRENCIES

London
£/\$ 1.5945
£/DM 2.7247
£/Sfr 1.5195
£/FFr 1.3600
£/Yen 154.00
£/Lira 1.75
£/ECU 1.3363
New York
\$/\$ 1.0000
\$/DM 1.9364
\$/Sfr 1.4835
\$/FFr 6.5596
\$/Yen 149.34
\$/Lira 1.75
\$/ECU 1.3363

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$389.80 pm-\$382.00
Close \$391.50-\$392.00 (245 50-246 00)
New York
Comex 383.40-383.50

NORTH SEA OIL

West (May) ... \$18.15 bid (\$18.20)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia	2.225	2.075
Belgium	18.36	18.75
Canada	9.40	9.50
Denmark	1.947	1.847
France	10.85	10.25
Germany	3.80	3.80
Italy	2.15	2.15
Japan	23.75	23.75
Netherlands	13.09	12.19
Portugal	1.075	1.055
Spain	16.64	16.30
Sweden	2.90	2.44
Switzerland	3.185	3.025
Taiwan	11.64	10.38
Thailand	7.53	7.27
UK	4.86	4.25
USA	1.51	1.51
West Germany	10.28	9.28
Yugoslavia	2.325	2.375
Yuan	3.18	3.18
Yuan	1.75	1.75
Yuan	1.75	1.75

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as accepted by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 118.5 (January)

Sterling slips on Budget inflation fear

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The pound, shares and gilts all fell sharply yesterday, in reaction to the Budget, which was seen as having done too little to tighten policy on inflation.

Sterling hit a new low since the resignation of the previous Chancellor of £5.3 on the effective rate index, despite Bank of England intervention. It recovered to close down 0.5 at 85.5.

The dollar strengthened after satisfactory US trade figures and the pound fell through the psychologically important \$1.60 level to close 1.5945, down 0.0165 from \$1.6110. The yen weakened against the dollar from ¥154.37 to ¥154.33, despite the one-point increase in the Japanese discount rate to 5.25 per cent.

In the money market, interest rates rose as sterling fell, leaving the benchmark three-month interbank rate 1/4 percentage point higher at 15 1/4 per cent. Mr Major said he was prepared to raise rates if necessary, but he was "not prepared to react precipitately to short-term movements" in sterling.

Markets do not expect an immediate rise in rates but some analysts now believe a rise is more likely than not.

Mr Gwyn Haache of James Capel said: "Lack of action in the Budget reinforces our view that sterling is very vulner-

able. Against an unfavourable international background the risk of a rise in rates must now be about 60-40 in favour."

Overshadowed by the fall in the pound and speculation of an interest rate rise, shares fell, leaving the FT-SE 100 index down 9.4 at 2,250.3 by the close. Gilts fell steeply, losing up to 1 1/4 as market participants concluded that the Chancellor's references to funding policy could mean some overfunding, involving additional gilt sales in the coming months.

Mr Major denied that the rise in forecast levels of inflation meant that full membership of the European Monetary System had been postponed. "It is not a question of whether we will join but when," he said. "When we go in I want it to be a success."

Asked if Britain would join this year he said he would neither rule it out nor rule it in. Referring to the size of tax increases, the Chancellor said people had been dazzled by the large Budget surpluses of previous years and that this had been the toughest Budget for 10 years. He denied there was an automatic trade-off between fiscal and monetary policy. "The fiscal surplus is very large and I judge that it is adequate," he said.

Markets are now focusing on today's trade figures and the Mid-Staffordshire by-election. The expectation is for some improvement on the £1.9 billion current account

deficit in January, perhaps to £1.3 billion. A poor showing for the Government in the by-election is largely discounted.

German monetary union and a boom in West Germany are likely to make the Bundesbank raise its key lending rates by up to a full percentage point by the summer (writes Colin Narborough).

Dr Klaus Wiens, senior vice president and chief economist at Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale, said in London that he expected the West German central bank to maintain its "cautious stance" and head off inflationary pressures before they build up.

With monetary union between East and West Germany now expected to be finalized by the end of next month, he expected the Bundesbank to raise key rates before the monetary tie-up is implemented in July.

When the Bundesbank last raised its key rates, in October, a wave of rate increases followed across Europe, including Britain. With the pound very weak, a fresh West German rate rise would make it difficult for the British authorities not to follow suit.

Dr Wiens, who accurately predicted the last Bundesbank rate move, said high interest rates would not affect the favourable sales and profit situation of West German firms, and share prices would tend to remain stable, or advance.

Comment, page 25

Quinnen quits Capel after policy disputes

By Angela Mackay

Mr Peter Quinnen, chairman and chief executive of the securities house James Capel, has resigned after policy differences with Capel's parent, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

Mr Quinnen, aged 44, resigned and left the Bevis Marks offices after 18 years with Capel after Mr William Purves, Hongkong and Shanghai's chairman, refused out of hand to consider selling it.

Mr David Dugdale and Mr James Fergusson, Capel's deputy chairmen, assumed the roles of joint chief executives. Mr Peter Wrangham, London-based executive director (Europe) of Hongkong Bank

Group, has been appointed non-executive chairman of the James Capel group.

Neither Mr Quinnen, Capel nor Hongkong and Shanghai would comment on the record except for the bank saying that his departure was "regretted". Sources close to the protagonists said that Mr Quinnen had presented "more than a couple" of prospective chairman buyers for Capel at an attractive price but Mr Purves would not look at a deal.

Mr Quinnen was concerned that if the expected merger of Midland Bank and Hongkong and Shanghai is completed, Capel, which has earned an enviable position in the City

with its research and placing capabilities, would be run down slowly.

Sources said he wanted more commitment from Capel's owner, feeling the only way to keep turning a profit in such a tough market is to take a more aggressive stance. Capel returned to profit in 1989 after two years of losses.

Mr Purves is thought to have taken a more cautious approach to equity stake-building and arbitrage.

One headhunting firm suggested that the final cheque for Mr Quinnen, said to have been at Capel on a one-year contract, could be about £300,000.

Directors of Garston charged

By Our City Staff

Two directors of Garston Amhurst, the failed investment services company, will appear in Bow Street Magistrates Court today charged with conspiracy to defraud.

Mr Christopher Dicoon, Stockwell, Garston's former chief, and Mr James Demetrius Krikis, were charged after interviews with the Serious Fraud Office. Garston was authorized to sell only the products of National Financial Management Corp, a subsidiary of the TSB. But several millions pounds of investors' cash was deposited in an unauthorized account and then transferred offshore.

Hammerson holding talks with Rosehaugh

By Matthew Bond

Mr Godfrey Bradman, chairman of Rosehaugh, has confirmed it is holding talks with Hammerson, the rival property developer. The talks centre on Shearwater, Rosehaugh's retail development subsidiary. But at this stage the talks are not connected with a sale of Shearwater. Instead it appears Hammerson has expressed an interest in jointly funding a number of the large shopping centres Shearwater has on its books.

Shearwater's billion-pound development programme includes proposals for shopping centres at Ellesmere Port, Exeter and at Dartford, Kent, close to the M25. Mr Bradman

was speaking after hearing that 96.9 per cent of the shares had been taken up in the company's £125 million rights issue leaving just 1.94 million to be placed.

These were placed yesterday at an average premium to the 200p issue price of 53p. Rosehaugh shares rose in response to 254p.

Mr Bradman was delighted with the take-up. "We take it as a tremendous vote of confidence. I am especially pleased because a number of people were seeking to undermine the likelihood of the rights issue being successful." The issue had not been underwritten.

MMC says deal will not reduce competition

Bupa's £92m bid for HCA cleared

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

British United Provident Association (Bupa), the private health care group, has been given clearance for its £92 million acquisition of HCA United Kingdom, the British part of Hospital Corporation of America.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission said the merger would not "significantly" reduce competition.

It leaves Bupa squaring up to AMI Healthcare, recently bought by Compagnie Generale des Eaux, of France, from American Medical International, its US parent. AMI has 14 hospitals and four psychiatric units. HCA and AMI sold their British offshoots after leverage pressures.

It is at an AMI Healthcare hospital, the Portland, in London, that the Duchess of

York is expected to give birth. The Portland is a "five-star" hospital, but Bupa eschews that approach.

Mr Bob Graham, Bupa's chief executive, said: "You might say we are in the three- to four-star bracket in hotel accommodation parlance - fairly uniform, fairly high standard."

"Our priorities are a decidedly high standard of medical care with the latest technology and a quality standard of accommodation. A lot of people do not like to see too much emphasis on things like the *haute cuisine* approach to food because they look on it as an extravagance."

The clearance of the Bupa deal should foreshadow more stability in the private hospitals sector, although Paracelsus, the West German hospitals operator, has

built up three units in Britain. Bupa has expanded into Spain with a controlling stake in Sanitas, that country's largest health insurer, and is looking at other opportunities on the Continent.

In Britain, Bupa is the largest health insurer, accounting for about 52 per cent of the value of health insurance premiums, which stood at £817 million in 1988.

With HCA's 10 hospitals, Bupa owns a total of 28 private hospitals, or about 14 per cent of all private sector units, making it the second largest private hospital group after the Nuffield charity chain with its 32 hospitals. But Bupa has the largest number of beds.

The MMC noted Bupa's policy of operating its insurance and hospital businesses on an arm's-length basis.

Breakfast at home with Tiffany

JAMES GRAY



Offering The Tiffany Touch: Rosamond Monckton outside the Bond Street shop yesterday

By Gillian Bowditch

The gloves are off in Bond Street. The sustained downturn in consumer spending means that even the luxury houses staffed by pencil-thin women in immaculate suits are feeling the pinch, and the battle is on for those well-heeled shoppers who think nothing of spending £4,810 on an Elsa Peretti gold bone cuff.

Miss Rosamond Monckton, managing director of Tiffany & Co in Bond Street, says she initially thought that once she had struggled to find a suitable property and opened the Tiffany shop three-and-a-half years ago, she would be able to sit back and watch the customers come flooding in.

This did not prove to be the case. "It's lethal out there," is Miss Monckton's description of London's most expensive shopping street.

Tiffany's latest idea to attract more business is to set up "The Tiffany Touch," a home shopping service for those potential customers who, in Miss Monckton's words, are simply "too busy to shop."

The service will be run by Mrs Fiona Ward, fresh from Fifth Avenue where she managed the New York home shopping service for Tiffany. The idea is that busy, young, City chaps will keep some of their personal stationery at the shop, along with a list of their beloved's anniversaries, ring sizes and preferences. Customers can telephone their requests and Tiffany will deliver the gift to the office.

But aficionados of Tiffany need not fear that the company is returning to the days when it was a not too successful subsidiary of the door-to-door cosmetics company Avon. "One doesn't have to be a millionaire to open an account," says Mrs Ward, although clearly Tiffany's would like it if you are. Better still if you are Japanese. On Bond Street the word is that the spending power of one Japanese customer is equal to three Arab customers, five American customers or 20 British customers.

The Japanese shoppers at the Chanel boutique in Paris are each limited to buying three of the distinctive quilted handbags because of the demand for them.

Japanese shoppers now make up more than 5 per cent of Tiffany's customers and their preferences are scarves, watches, and expensive modern jewellery.

Tiffany's sales in Britain for the year to February 1990 were £4 million, up 40 per cent on the previous year, and the shop is looking for 20 per cent sales growth this year.

Mrs Ward expects to build up a client list of about 100 and would like the home shopping service to have sales of between £50,000 or £100,000 in its first year.

Temps, page 24

Nomura cancels warrant fund

By Neil Bennett

Nomura, the leading Japanese securities house, has been forced to cancel the launch of its \$100 million Japanese warrant fund due to a slump in demand from institutional investors.

The cancellation follows the heavy falls in warrant prices this year.

The cancellation is a blow for Nomura International, which is trying to establish a presence in the European asset management market.

This would have been the subsidiary's third European issue, after the launch of the Nomura global fund last December which took in substantially more than its \$100 million target.

Demand in the primary and secondary warrant markets has collapsed since prices started to fall in January. Warrants have since lost an average of 35 per cent of their values.

Earlier this month Nomura cancelled a \$300 million warrant Eurobond issue for Seriyu Corp, one of many issues which have recently failed to materialize.

The Nomura fund had already been criticized for its adverts, which were titled "more of the rewards for less of the risks."

Investors felt these did not carry proper warnings about the risks of equity warrants, although the bank said that the fund had been intended for institutions rather than retail savers.

A spokesman for Nomura said he did not think the group's standing would suffer from the withdrawal.

"We are still completely committed to the primary and secondary warrant market," he said.

"It would have damaged our reputation if we had gone ahead regardless. You don't like biting the bullet, but it gets to a point where you have to."

Goodbye, paintshop. Hello, Colorcoat.

There are obvious advantages to buying steel ready-painted. Particularly if you buy a lot of it, like they do in the construction and domestic appliance industries.

Provided, of course, that it's painted as well as you'd do it yourself, in the colours you want. And that the paint stays put when you bend the steel.

With 20 years' experience and a stack of testimonials, British Steel's Colorcoat will fill most of your requirements. And probably cost you less into the bargain.

(Its effects on overheads and cashflow are also likely to be beneficial.)

We clothe our steels in many coats besides paint, such as laminates and thin film coatings.

They're just a few of the added values which are selling British steel all over the world.

Drop us a line, and we'll paint you a picture.



WE'RE ADDING VALUE AT BRITISH STEEL.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Tibbett & Britten lifts profits 43% to £9m

Tibbett & Britten, the fast-growing food, toiletries and clothing distribution group, boosted 1989 pre-tax profits 43 per cent to £9.06 million on turnover up 47 per cent to £101 million. Earnings per share are up from 15.3p to 18.7p and the directors have recommended a final dividend of 5.1p (4p), making 7.5p (5.9p) for the year.

The group, part of a £5 million management buyout from Unilever in 1985, is confident it can further expand its market share in Britain during the current year, while also expanding abroad.

Hibernian at £13.4m

Hibernian, the Irish underwriting group, nudged pre-tax profits to £13.7 million (£13.4 million) on premium income of £112.7 million (£111 million). The total dividend rises from 14.3p to 14.8p on a proposed final of 14.3p. Earnings per share were 115.3p (113.6p).

IFICO slides into the red

IFICO, the financial services group, plunged to a £335,000 loss in the six months to December, from pre-tax profits of £1.5 million last time. Turnover shrank to £1.7 million (£7.3 million) after disposal of Fairview Securities. There is again no interim dividend, on losses per share of 1.04p (2.78p earnings).

Gabicci down 24%

Gabicci, the menswear distributor, suffered a 24.3 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £644,000 in the six months to December 19, reflecting difficult trading conditions. Group turnover was reduced by 12 per cent to £12.2 million as a result of the downturn in consumer spending.

Earnings per share slip from 4.8p to 3.6p. However, the interim dividend is maintained at 1.4p. Mr Jack Sofer, the chairman, said the group had performed satisfactorily, considering the continuing high interest rates and the current pressures on the retail sector. The shares rose 4p to 45p.

Mohair falls to £4.54m

Pre-tax profits at British Mohair Holdings, the yarn processor and spinner to paper merchant, fell from £5.29 million to £4.54 million in 1989. Turnover dropped £1 million to £43.5 million, while earnings per share fell from 26.1p to 23.28p. A final dividend of 7.1p (6.6p) makes 8.5p (8p).

ICI offshoot expects fall

ICI Australia, the 62.4 per cent subsidiary of Imperial Chemical Industries, expects profit for the six months to March 31 to be about half last year's Aus\$88.6 million (£41.6 million). Sales are forecast unchanged at about Aus\$1.49 billion, but profit will decline after a steep fall in world prices.

Laporte's successful formula

Laporte has an interesting approach to business in an industry dominated by capital-intensive production — it buys high-margin chemicals businesses which do not need expensive factories. What these lack in growth potential they make up in cash flow, which Laporte then uses to acquire new specialist niches.

As a result, profits and earnings per share have risen at an annual rate of more than 15 per cent in the past five years. Progress in 1989 was in line with the average, with pre-tax profits before exceptional items up 17 per cent to £100 million and earnings 16 per cent ahead at 50.4p.

However, the performance which Laporte's formula delivers is rather better than suggested by the group figures. Laporte, led by Mr Ken Minton, chief executive, has a series of joint ventures with Solvay, the Belgian chemicals group which owns 25 per cent of its equity.

These ventures make chemicals used in bleaches and detergents, a relatively mature market. Indeed, profits, just 5 per cent up in 1989, have risen by only a quarter in the past five years. By contrast, profits from its subsidiaries have grown nearly 30 per cent a year over that period.

Laporte's latest acquisition is a good example of its priorities. Earlier this month it paid Brent Chemicals £23 million for Reddish Saville, which supplies cleaning chemicals. At the time, Brent emphasized that Reddish Saville's profits were unchanged in four years, while Laporte focused on the point that its profit margins had averaged over more than 22 per cent.



The right chemistry: Ken Minton, Laporte chief executive, and Richard Dickinson, finance director, yesterday

Laporte intends to put Reddish Saville together with its existing cleaning chemicals businesses in Europe, which will allow new product development to be spread over a bigger sales base.

The current year may be tougher than 1989, but if profits before exceptional items rise to £115 million and earnings to 54p, the shares, up 16p at 517p, will be on a prospective p/e ratio of under 10. Given the record and the fact that two-thirds of its profits arise in Britain, that is good value.

BAT

BAT will be back in the market buying its own shares again now that year-end results are out of the way, and

will be a different animal — but probably in better shape — in 1990, on the assumption that it will have been slimmed down by demergers.

BAT has some way to go before exhausting shareholders' permission to buy-in up to 10 per cent of its shares, and since it has spent £213 million on the exercise and still believes it worthwhile, more own-buying is in the offing.

The Budget should be but a blip in BAT's life in 1990, and now that Farmers — which more than covered its financing costs in its first year under the BAT umbrella — is settling down, financial services as a whole should become more dominant.

Tobacco operations turned in a record £945 million at the trading level, up from £756 million last year, with group cigarette volumes rising by 2.1 per cent to outperform world markets' growth of 1.6 per cent.

Year-end gearing was down from 66.5 per cent to 46 per cent, and although a demerged BAT will make this year's profit comparisons complex, the slimmed-down group should be looking at £1.92 billion pre-tax profits this year.

Adjust yesterday's BAT price of 814p for the imputed 115p-120p price tag applicable for the flotations, and the prospective price/earnings ratio of 9.4 still suggests a buy.

Bowthorpe

Bowthorpe Holdings is the last to worry about a two-cent fall in sterling — it estimates that weakness in the pound in the second half of 1989 boosted the year's pre-tax profits by more than £1 million.

Currency was one factor

that put 5p on the Bowthorpe share price, to 179p, despite a gloomy stock market as it came in with pre-tax profits in line with expectations at £44.52 million, a rise from £40.07 million.

Bowthorpe has made a good living during the last half-century out of some ungainly, not to say obscure, products in the electrical and electronics fields.

The latest product, the screwless terminal block, is an electrical linkage that does not require the time-consuming use of a screwdriver. This is made by one of its two West Germany companies, both poised to do well out of reunification.

The company makes great play of its diversity, with profits split roughly evenly between this country, the rest of Europe and the Americas and with no single customer globally accounting for more than 1 per cent of business.

Japan is the next target.

The shares have suffered from the malaise in the electronics sector — down from a peak of 236p six months ago — and the impact of economic slowdown was apparent from yesterday's figures. Margins are down across the board, particularly in this country, where static earnings compared with a 9 per cent sales increase.

About half the profits rise came from acquisitions, although organic growth traditionally makes an 80 per cent contribution.

Profits just short of £50 million this year put the shares on a premium rating for an electronics company of 10 times' prospective earnings.

Britannic storms claims at £1.5m

By Neil Bennett

The winter storms have cost Britannic Assurance, the Birmingham-based insurer, £1.5 million, enough to push its underwriting operations into loss this year.

The company made the damage estimate as it produced its 1989 figures, which showed a 15 per cent rise in net profit to £15.3 million. The final dividend is being raised from 11p to 14.25p, making a total of 20.75p, up a quarter.

Mr Brian Shaw, Britannic's general manager, said the Tessa savings plan introduced in Tuesday's Budget, could create more competition from the building societies.

Britannic, which has a salesforce of 2,200 operating from 250 branches, has been particularly successful in selling personal pensions and won 98,000 customers last year. This helped ordinary premium income rise 35 per cent to £268 million.

The company keeps 70 per cent of its funds in equities, which accounts for its strong performance and enabled it to raise its terminal bonuses by at least 40 per cent throughout. The performance also allowed the company to increase after-tax transfers by 23 per cent to £11.8 million.

In general insurance, underwriting profits fell 15 per cent to £754,000 after a series of large subsidence claims in the third quarter due to the dry summer. The overall net profit rose 12 per cent to £1.85 million due to a strong investment profit.

Record Pre-tax Profit £2.04 billion — up 24%

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Year to December

£1=£1.61 at 31.12.89 (£1.81 at 31.12.88)

	1988	1989	Change 88-89
GROUP TURNOVER	£17,653m	£21,636m	+23%
PRE-TAX PROFIT	£1,641m	£2,041m	+24%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	62.81p	76.75p	+22%
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	20.10p	30.00p	+49%

● Financial Services profit rose by 83 per cent to £807 million, after providing £25 million for 1990 storm damage. Farmers more than covered its financing costs.

● Tobacco trading profit up 25 per cent to a record £945 million. Group cigarette volumes increased by 2.1 per cent in world markets which rose by 1.6 per cent. Exports up 16 per cent.

● Continuing Group pre-tax profit up by 30 per cent to £1.71 billion, greater than the pre-tax profit for the entire Group in 1988.

● Demergers of Argos and Wiggins Teape Appleton are proceeding and disposals are on schedule for completion by the end of June 1990.

BAT INDUSTRIES

Full financial statements will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies and carry an unqualified audit report. The full results are being posted to shareholders and copies are available from the Company Secretary, BAT Industries p.l.c., Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.

World of Leather slumps into loss and cuts dividend

By Melinda Wittstock

The downturn in consumer spending and slump in the housing market have claimed another victim in the furniture retailing industry as World of Leather slumped into the red for the first time.

Record pre-tax profits of £2.08 million for 1988 were turned into losses of £88,000 last year and Mr Ramon Benardout, the chairman, said there is no sign of improvement. The final dividend is cut from 3.7p to 0.8p, leaving shareholders with 1.6p for the year against 4.5p last time.

Turnover, although only marginally down from £23.3 million to £23.2 million, still remains at a disappointing level, he said.

World of Leather, Britain's largest specialist retailer of leather furniture, has halted all expansion plans until interest rates fall and conditions begin to recover.

This retailer, which recently opened stores in Croydon and Cardiff, also blamed additional overheads relating to its £3.5 million acquisition last

July of seven leather furniture stores previously trading as Leatherland. The acquisition, which provided World of Leather with more selling space when sales were dropping, also converted a cash surplus into net borrowings, which at the year-end stood at £2.92 million.

Mr Benardout said the group now intends to preserve cash resources, which explains the decision to cut the dividend. Earnings per share slumped from 16.8p to 0.8p.

Mr Benardout, who is also the joint managing director, said: "We are naturally disappointed by these results but believe that, despite this setback, we are well prepared for the inevitable upturn when interest rates start to fall."

The company has already saved more than £200,000 by shedding 20 of its 185 employees.

Mr Benardout said that the company remains confident about the future of the up-holstered furniture market, particularly leather furniture.

Move to Scotland urged by Rifkind

By Colin Narbrough

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, sought to persuade City institutions to relocate north of the border to take advantage of 200 years of Scottish expertise in financial services and much lower current costs.

Hosting a lunch at Lancaster House in London for 50 bankers and brokers, he said an operation with 200 staff, using 30,000 sq ft of office space, could be as much as £2.5 million a year cheaper to run in Glasgow or Edinburgh than in London.

Staff costs were 30 per cent lower than in London.

Mr Rifkind also underlined that staff turnover, while a serious problem in the South-east, only amounted to about 1 per cent a year in the leading

Scottish centres. Unlike some sectors of industry, financial services have continued to thrive in Scotland, aided by the revolution in telecommunications.

The sector employs 172,000, or 10 per cent of the Scottish workforce.

He said: "Of course, savings can be achieved elsewhere in the UK outside London, but it is the availability of a well-educated, flexible and increasingly computer-literate workforce which is proving to be a powerful attraction."

Mr Rifkind said that not only were British institutions showing increased interest in locating to Scotland, but companies were starting to use it as a base for international operations.

De Beers raises rough diamond price 5.5%

By Colin Campbell, Mining Correspondent

De Beers is raising the price of rough diamonds sold through the Central Selling Organization by an average 5.5 per cent with effect from the next "sight" this Monday.

The hike is in line with world inflation, and will in part redress increased mining, sorting and valuation costs for the producers. The previous De Beers' rough diamond price rise was 15.5 per cent in 1989.

The increase also follows stronger retail demand for polished stones in certain parts of the world. Polished exports from Israel grew by 8 per cent last year, from India by 12 per cent, and turnover in Antwerp

was 17 per cent higher at \$14.6 billion last year.

At the consumer end, Japanese retail diamond jewellery sales were 12 per cent higher last year, German sales were 11 per cent up, there was a 21 per cent increase in French retail sales and an 12 per cent increase in British retail diamond jewellery sales.

The financial detail of De Beers' recent plans to split its operations between South African and non-South African assets — which include the formation of a Swiss holding company for foreign assets — are expected in April.

De Beers shares traded at £134 yesterday.

Steetley expands with £92m buy in France

By Jeremy Andrews

Steetley, the brick and quarry group, is consolidating its leading position in the French market with the acquisition of Gobitta, the last big independent supplier of aggregates to the Paris region, for £92m (£92.4 million), to be paid over nine years.

Steetley has spent more than £100 million buying French quarries over the past five years, but Gobitta will be the last, says Mr Richard Miles, Steetley's managing director.

The move follows Redland's £46 million purchase in January of rail depots in the Paris region and quarries to serve them. However, Steetley's aggregates arrive by barge, and Gobitta will add a

further wharf to the four it owns on the Seine.

Steetley will be paying £100 million initially, £125 million in June, and a further £200 million 12 months later, with the balance in instalments until 1998. Because of this phasing, Steetley does not expect the purchase to dilute its earnings this year.

Gobitta reported pre-tax profits of only £16.5 million in the six months to August. This gives an earnings multiple in the high 20s for the purchase if the deferred payments are discounted to present values, according to Mr Miles. However, he expects Gobitta's profits to improve.

Although Gobitta's net as-

sets were only £146 million last month, Steetley expects any goodwill on the acquisition to be eliminated when its 150 million tonnes of aggregate reserves are revalued. Sales are estimated to have risen by two-thirds to more than £1300 million in 1989-90.

Gobitta produces about 3.3 million tonnes annually, which will add one percentage point to Steetley's existing 9 per cent share of the French market. It will also give the group a 15 per cent share in the Paris and Ile de France region, which is growing rapidly.

Mr Miles said the purchase would be financed by an existing French franc borrow-

ing facility, at interest rates of about 11 per cent. Gobitta would add 4 per cent to its 20 per cent gearing at the year-end. "I don't think that presages the need for a rights issue. It is adequately financeable from within our existing resources."

Steetley's share of the French aggregates market is double that which it enjoys in Britain. Mr Miles said this was because chances to buy here were very limited as ownership had been consolidated in a few hands for some years. However, the French market was fragmented until recently, which made it easier for Steetley to buy its way in. However, there are not many large quarries left to buy.

Units lose £2bn in value

The slump in world stock markets wiped nearly £2 billion off the value of UK unit trusts last month, even though sales were higher than in January.

Sales rose by £49.8 million to £951.8 million, and net new investment more than doubled to £303.5 million. The value of repurchases fell from £772 million to £648 million contributing to the increase.

The total value of funds under management at the end of February was £55.2 billion, 3 per cent down on January.

Nearly 50,000 unit holder accounts were closed. The number of accounts peaked at more than five million two years ago, but has since fallen to about 4.8 million.

Gold falls

The London gold price fell by \$6.75 to \$391.75 an ounce — and, at one point, was down by more than \$9 and trading at its lowest since November — after world-wide selling.

Gold's fall on the back of the continued strength of the dollar triggered stop-loss computer selling, which, in turn, sent other precious metal prices lower.

Platinum was \$13 down at \$487.75 an ounce, although technical factors lifted silver by 1.5p to 318.25p an ounce.

Value higher

The net asset value of Law Debenture Corporation, the investment trust that acts as a trustee for securities, rose 31.3 per cent to 428.7p, and pre-tax profits advanced by 25.9 per cent to £4.94 million in the year to end-December. Earnings per share rose by 26.3 per cent to 15.44p. The final dividend is raised to 8.5p (6.45p), making 13.5p for the year, up 32.4 per cent on 1988.

Daf warning

Daf, the Dutch van and truck maker floated last year, saw net profits rise to £171.7 million (£55.7 million) for 1989, from £147.1 million, but it says that 1990 first-half profits will be down because of economic conditions. Net earnings per share are £15.91 (£15.17). The dividend is £12.50.

Final bell for Church

Jerry Church, known as one of the snappiest dressers in the Square Mile — and the only man who never wore an overcoat, regardless of the weather — is to retire from the City at the end of this month. A hugely popular figure, Church, aged 59, a senior dealer and one-time partner at Laing & Crickshank, where he has been for the past 45 years, is throwing a farewell party for his many friends in the City of London Club this evening. He is a very keen squash player, and was one of the five founder shareholders of his local squash club in Brentwood, Essex. Church's wife Gill tells me that he is also going to be spending a lot more time on the golf course from now on, trying to reduce his handicap of 16 to below 14. And, according to his colleagues, the committee at nearby Thorndon Park Golf Club, where he is a member, is "going to wonder what has hit it, once he starts getting them all in order." His wife also reveals that apart from the squash and golf, Church — clearly about to enter his second childhood — plans to build a replica Cobra sports car from a kit. "He already has the engine. It is very large and it will probably take him about a year to complete," she added. Meanwhile, Russell, his son, is obviously set to follow in his father's footsteps — he is presently working as a Euro-bond salesman for Morgan Guaranty in New York.

Prestige spot for Potsworth

NICK GOLDINGER



Worth pots: Vivien and Martin Powell, with Potsworth and his cartoon likeness, yesterday

Potsworth, an energetic springer spaniel rescued from Battersea Dog's Home, is heading for sure fame on US syndicated television, thanks to the efforts of his owners whose animated cartoon series, *Potsworth & Co*, will be seen throughout North America from September (Melinda Wittstock writes).

The first 13 episodes of the new series, created by the husband and wife team of Vivien and Martin Powell, whose company, Sleepy Kids, was floated on the Third Market last July, will be

shown on *The Fantastic World of Hanna Barbera* under the name *Midnight Patrol*.

The Fantastic World has the highest ratings of all children's programming in the US, and Sleepy Kids will split the take with Hanna Barbera, the cartoon company, which has jointly produced the show.

Mr Powell said a half-hour of *The Fantastic World* is worth more than \$50,000 on average ratings.

Sleepy Kids, which last month linked up with Telco International, a subsidiary of

TVS Entertainment, to distribute the series throughout continental Europe, said it would also announce a TV deal in Britain in April.

"We are delighted to get this prestigious slot. Together with the Telco distribution deal for Europe, *Potsworth & Co* should be sold to all the major world territories within a short period of time," said Mrs Powell.

The Powells are also busy tapping the lucrative character merchandising market.

The shares, floated at 20p, climbed 2p to 31p.

Matthews fishes for change

By Gillian Bowditch

Bernard Matthews, the poultry and meat company, is hoping to find corporate salvation in breadcrumbs and fishes after two disappointing years struggling against food scares, high poultry feed prices and a decline in red meat sales.

The company, chaired by Mr Bernard Matthews, has launched two fish products; Golden Fishies, a type of extra crispy fish finger and Sea Pearls, fish Kiev.

The company is hoping that fish will help to revive the

group's fortunes. Last year, pre-tax profits fell from £10.2 million to £9.11 million on sales that were static at £135 million.

Earnings per share after tax fell from 5.33p to 4.5p but the dividend is up 20 per cent at 3p.

The main problem last year was the decline in sales of pork, beef and lamb which fell 6 per cent in Britain. Meat sales at Matthews fell 20 per cent to about 27 million.

The group recovered sub-

stantially in the second half, after profits down 20 per cent at the interim stage. The interest charge doubled to £1.08 million mainly because of heavy investment in plant and advertising, but the group ended the year with no borrowings and more than £500,000 in cash.

So far this year, sales are ahead of last year and the increase in the dividend is a measure of the group's confidence in the future. The shares fell 2p to 63p.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

The Banker's Lament

Rodney Galpin, former executive director of the Bank of England, now chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, is clearly a man who knows how to get attention when he wants it. Through sheer charm. In response to criticism in *The Times* last week about the \$80 million provision made by the bank on a \$110 million investment — in MiniScribe, a computer peripherals manufacturer — he promptly put pen to paper and, setting something of a welcome precedent for other company chairmen, composed the following:

A study of life in the dinosaur age. Gives you the hindsight to rattle our cage. But what now is skeleton, from a cupboard to bring. Once was a prize seen fit for a King. So we learn from the past, and in changing their ways. May not even bankers look in hope for some praise? Your bargepole we'll keep to leverage our hands. As we rise to the heights that your challenge demands.

On parade

The Chancellor's wife, Norma Major, who had previously declared herself "really nervous" at the prospect of being

photographed on the steps of No 11 alongside her husband, was obviously determined to do her duty on Budget Day, come what may. During the course of her husband's speech, she was spotted in the public gallery, flanked by her children Elizabeth, aged 18, and James, aged 15. Both children have hitherto been kept almost entirely out of the public eye, but they were clearly well prepared for their father's big day.

● Anyone hoping to spot former Chancellor Nigel Lawson's influence in the scribbles published by BZW chief economist Michael Hughes was disappointed. Despite his reputed six-figure salary for two days a week there, Lawson was nowhere to be seen at Elgates House, BZW's City headquarters on Budget Day. "He was at the House all day,"



You giving up after the Budget didn't make much difference.

Schroders boosted by water sell-off

By Neil Bennett

Profits from organizing the water privatization and the Consolidated Gold Fields takeover helped Schroders, the merchant bank, to boost its disclosed profits by 55 per cent to a record £46.6 million in 1989.

However, it has refused to follow the lead set by Barings last week and reveal its hidden reserves and pre-tax profits. Under EC law, it must publish these by 1993.

It is paying a final dividend of 19p, making 25p, an increase of 28 per cent. It is making a one-for-one scrip issue. Schroders acted in 150 merger and acquisition deals during the year, worth £26 billion. This was £5 billion less than the previous year, but profits rose due to success fees from several hostile bids.

The largest deal was ConsGold, where it first successfully defended the company against Minorco and then took part in Hanson's agreed offer. This alone brought in an estimated £8 million. The £5.2 billion water flotation brought in a similar amount, spread over three years.

The bank's asset management division also grew rapidly, with funds rising from £16.5 to £22.5 billion. During the year it overtook Robert Fleming to become the City's third largest fund manager.

The figures masked large write-offs against Third World debts, but Schroders is now provided against its remaining Latin American loans.

ISE set to shed 280 jobs

By Graham Searjeant

The International Stock Exchange is set to shed a tenth of its jobs in a radical restructuring that will make 190 people redundant, eliminate a further 90 unfilled vacancies and drastically reduce the role of the committees of members of the Stock Exchange council.

The reorganization was the priority of Mr Peter Rawlings, who became chief executive of the ISE in November. It splits the ISE's organization into three functional divisions: primary markets (mainly quotations), trading markets, and settlement services (responsible for the Taurus system).

Many of the jobs lost are in information services, a department which will disappear, while generally, many more jobs are being redeployed.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Teenage scribblers set a test for the Major

John Major has faced the test of the teenage scribblers — and those that fund them — and has not been found wanting. With the Bank of England by his side, he stood firm yesterday morning when sterling was unloaded to see whether he would cave in to pressure to lift base rates. He gave no ground as the three-month money market rates waved around 15½ per cent. And he kept on smiling as the cries of "Mr Softie" echoed around the half-deserted dealing rooms of the City of London.

Out there in the real world, north of Finsbury Circus and West of St Paul's, there is no pressure for rates increases, rather the reverse. There is not the same clamour for a strong pound when every penny that sterling loses increases the possibility of piercing European export markets. And there is no desire to see an economic strategy outlined on Tuesday afternoon blown out of the water on Wednesday morning.

That is not to say that Chancellors can afford to ignore the young scribbles of their paymasters, so often in far away overseas havens where interest rates have not gone to double figures in living memory. In retrospect, I am sure that even Mr Major is wishing that he could divorce politics from his economics and have been as tough as the market economists would have wished. It is not part of any Chancellor's brief to spend the day after Budget day not only defending its social imperatives but also protecting the currency against his own Capital City.

But the framework is built and Mr Major has little choice but to call the

market's bluff, a tactic at which he may become both practised and expert. In the first few weeks of his sudden appointment, the foreign exchanges threw rotten tomatoes and piled the pavements with banana skins. He neither slipped nor ducked and, with the help of Threadneedle Street, avoided raising rates.

That is not to say he will be able to avoid the increase this time around. A rise may be the price he has to pay for a Budget which appeared too lax in its monetary objectives to get a grip on inflation. The gilt market seems to have few doubts, although by the close of business early losses of two pounds were trimmed back to £1¼. If the combined forces of Whitehall and Leadenhall Street can retain the initiative in the face of today's trade figures, a rise in rates may be avoided. But it will be a close run thing and Mr Major's mathematics leave little room for error, especially in the short term.

If he can manage to weather the next month, industry will have cause to be much relieved. The fickle nature of financial markets, reemphasized again by the cut in jobs at the International Stock Exchange, has caused the penny to drop that there has to be more to the economy than service industries. Manufacturing companies have little to be cheerful about, as can be seen by the prospects of falling earnings and the rising tide of profits warnings. The Budget lacked real investment incentives and the growth forecasts are as miserable as sin.

Let us all hope that Mr Major can continue to keep his nerve.

End for secondary debt

As a former Standard Chartered banker, Third World debt provisioning was bound to be a subject close to Mr Major's heart. So with hindsight, it is not surprising that he chose the soap-box of his first Budget to clear up the uncertainty over the tax treatment of Third World debt provisions.

Several bankers had worried that January's delay of the publication of the Bank of England matrix of recommended provision levels, and the Inland Revenue's subsequent reticence on the subject, meant the Government was preparing a large stick with which to beat the bankers. The more paranoid suggested this as a likely retaliation for the banks' refusal to participate in the student loan scheme.

They were, therefore, relieved when the Chancellor decided to allow relief up to the matrix levels, and a phased introduction of higher relief.

Barclays, Lloyds and National Westminster have all provided for about 70 per cent of their debts. In effect, they are being asked by the Revenue for a four-

year interest-free loan, which Mr Major estimated at £200 million. While this will hamper cash flow, even that effect is light since the banks will not have to write the cheques until late next year.

The decision is a nail in the coffin, however, for the secondary debt market. Barclays and National Westminster, both enthusiastic sellers, may now be less willing since they can no longer crystallise a capital loss by doing so.

This removes one of the main reasons behind the highly-profitable market. Institutions will still use the market to balance their lending portfolio, but while the debtor nations buy in their debt at the market's depressed prices, liquidity will tighten.

Mr Major's final declaration — that banks could win full and instant relief if they sell the debt to its originator — was his cleverest. Contrary to the pleas of the Brady plan, banks could not until now sanction the direct cancellation of debt since it flew in the face of basic loan recovery principles. Now they have an excuse which they can take to their shareholder: the taxman made us do it.

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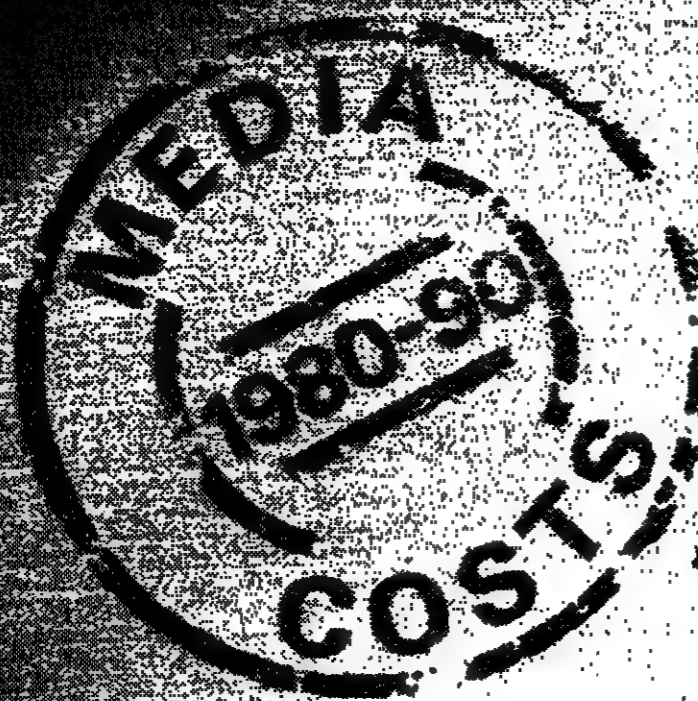
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Riding the inflation wave

Critics of John Major's Budget maintain that runaway prices are the Government's biggest problem. Rodney Lord, Economics Editor, investigates

The Budget has intensified the focus on inflation. By raising his year-end forecast from 5 1/2 per cent in the autumn statement to 7 1/2 per cent in the Budget, Mr John Major, the Chancellor, has confirmed market fears that things will worsen before they improve.

The response was a steep drop in the pound to a record low against the mark amid concern that he had done too little to bring down inflation.

Mr Major himself, however, has emphasised that the Budget was one for the medium term and should not be judged by the immediate reaction in foreign exchange markets.

For good measure, he mixed in some uncharacteristic sarcasm about the consistency of City economists' views before and after the Budget. In his judgement, he said, the Budget was a prudent package which would successfully bring down inflation. Fiscal policy was "the toughest for 10 years," though there was not necessarily any trade-off between fiscal and monetary policy anyway. Interest rates would go up if need be.

Time will tell whether the markets' fears are justified and, if so, how serious an economic and social adversity higher inflation will be. It used to be said that a little inflation was good for the economy. Prices rising at 2-3 per cent a year, people claimed, helped to keep growth ticking over and unemployment down.

In the 1960s this seemed to be true in Britain as the economy expanded rapidly by previous standards and inflation seldom rose as high as 5 per cent. Few people noticed that other economies were growing even faster and for the most part had lower inflation or none at all.

It would be difficult now to find anyone who thought inflation beneficial. A low and steady rate of inflation may not be very damaging to the economy, but in Britain it has seldom been low and steady for long. The governments of all the main industrial countries now aim to keep prices rising at a low or zero rate.

The inflationary shocks of the two oil price rises in 1974 and 1980 underlined the damage inflation does both to economic growth and social cohesion, creating uncertainty for business investment and making unplanned transfers of spending power between different sectors of the population. Rhetoric on all sides of the political spectrum now makes the defeat of inflation a top priority.

It would be understandable if Mr Major were inclined to castigate markets for confining their view to near term.

City hits at missed opportunity

What the economists predict. City economists, once described by Mr Nigel Lawson, the former Chancellor, as the "techno scribblers," were largely critical of Mr John Major's first Budget. Their main points follow:

Mr Major's Budget gives the voter the benefit of the doubt at the expense of a firm anti-inflation strategy. The Chancellor has missed an opportunity to reinforce his strategy by tightening fiscal policy a notch, and by giving the financial markets the impression that interest rates will not be raised further except under extreme conditions.

Samson Brothers

There must be severe doubts in the financial markets whether this Budget — the Budget that never was — is tough enough for the job. The same question will no doubt be raised about Mr Major himself. The overwhelming impression he gave during the speech was that he was trying too hard to be too nice to too many people. *Guldmann Sachs*

The expected timetable for an interest rate cut has been pushed further out. We do not envisage a significant reduction in rates until late summer. Clearly the Treasury believes the economy is perilously close to recession. If the evidence emerging in the next quarter supports this analysis, the neutral Budget stance will be vindicated. Until such evidence emerges, gilt yields will concentrate more on the short-term deterioration in inflation. *BZN*

Our calculations see inflation moving to 9 per cent before the summer and only coming down to about 8 per cent by the end of the year. *National Westminster Bank*

This is a do-nothing Budget. Mr Major is gambling that the

There is clearly going to be a peak in inflation as measured by the Retail Price Index in the immediate future, which has more to do with one-off increases in prices than with any deterioration in the underlying rate of inflation.

From the present level of 7.7 per cent, the poll tax will add just over 1 per cent, raising excise duties in line with previous inflation could add another 1/2 per cent (they were not raised last year) and the continuing trickle of increases in mortgage rates will also add more. Altogether it is difficult to see inflation peaking at less than 9 per cent, and if things go badly the peak could be nearer 10 per cent.

These increases are not in themselves inflationary — quite the reverse. Higher interest rates and higher taxes take spending money out of the economy. There have been similar blips in inflation before, for instance in 1985, from which the trend has recovered. Nevertheless, with inflationary expectations in a delicate state, the sight of inflation heading towards double figures, if only temporarily, will do little to improve confidence and could provoke a boost to pay settlements.

More important for the medium term is the underlying trend. If all goes well there will be no further increases in mortgage rates, and by next year there could be cuts, helping to bring down the published rate below the underlying rate. The pain of bringing in the poll tax will have passed out of the annual comparison, as will this year's excise duty increases. As a result, Mr Major is forecasting headline inflation down to 5 per cent by the second quarter of next year and below that level thereafter.

But these changes are fluctuations around a trend. The important thing is to bring down the underlying rate. Excluding mortgage interest payments, inflation, as measured by the RPI, has risen steadily from about 3 per cent in mid-1986 to more than 6 per cent now. This has occurred despite interest rates being well into double figures for more than 18 months.

The Budget contained nothing of substance to persuade people that monetary policy would be operated more effectively in the future than in the past. A new target was set for the narrow version of the money supply, M0, at the same rate of 1-5 per cent as in the current year — that is, one point looser than the previous range of 0-4 per cent for the coming year. Broad money continues to be "taken into account" with no set target.

economic slowdown will gather pace and deliver the economic results he needs without undertaking further action. If this gamble fails the Government's electoral chances are lost. *Midland Montagu*

The prediction that the headline rate of inflation will stay above 7 per cent at the end of 1990 seems unduly pessimistic and a lower outcome may allow the Treasury to signal an easing in monetary policy in the late summer. We are predicting 12 per cent base rates by the year-end. *Hoare Govett*

Mr Major missed his first — and last — opportunity to hit the economy hard and thus establish his credibility beyond doubt. The penalty for loose fiscal policy may be another increase in base rates. We still believe the economy will suffer a significant slowdown this year, sufficient to deliver a pleasing improvement in both the trade deficit and inflation. *Phillips & Drew*

A "Budget for Savers" Mr Major proclaimed — but not until 1991. He would have loved to have produced a vote-catching Budget, given the Conservatives' appalling showing in the opinion polls. Unfortunately, Mr Major was constrained by the excesses of Budgets past. What is really worrying the markets, however, is the ghost of Budgets future. Has the Chancellor done enough to create election-winning conditions? *Credit Lyonnais Securities Laing & Cruickshank*

The Budget gives no clear signal to investors that the economic and investment environment will improve significantly in the short term. But the long-term attractions of the market are underpinned by the eventual decline in interest rates and reduced inflation. *Nikko Securities*



Funding policy is unchanged.

This no-change position may not matter. Mr Major is quite right in saying there is "no single lodestar to guide us in monetary policy."

It is what happens in the meantime that is worrying. The exchange rate is not only an economic indicator, it is also an instrument. A fall in the pound is in itself liable to be inflationary, quite apart

from what it may tell us about monetary conditions. The steep fall of recent weeks, which continued in post-Budget dealing yesterday, is thus likely to generate further inflationary pressure. The 5 per cent fall seen, could, if sustained, raise prices by anything between 1 1/2 per cent and a full 5 per cent.

It is also significant that the Government's ambitions appear to have become more limited. The goal set for inflation when the medium term financial strategy was invented in 1980 was unequivocal: zero. Nowadays ministers talk of bringing down inflation to "a more tolerable level."

Why the RPI is still seen as the leading guide

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

The Retail Price Index remains the Government's principal inflation measure, despite its shortcomings as a guide to the economy's health. In the Budget, Mr John Major, the Chancellor, had to announce that the inflation outlook for this year, on the RPI measure, had worsened since his autumn statement.

He now expects the inflation rate to rise further from the 7.7 per cent annual rate reported for January before falling back. The Treasury assumption is that the RPI will still be showing 7.25 per cent in the final quarter this year against 5.75 per cent forecast last November.

The Treasury blames mortgage rates, high food prices, and the poll tax for the expected rise.

The RPI measures the average change from month to month in the prices of goods and services purchased by the majority of households. The spending patterns on which it is based are revised annually with the help of the Government's *Family Expenditure Survey*. It seeks to typify normal spending, and excludes expenditure by households with higher incomes and those dependent on state pensions.

A representative selection of more than 600 goods and services, from petrol and fresh vegetables to telephone charges and housing, are included. Price movements are regularly monitored in 180 towns, feeding about 13,000 separate price items into the index.

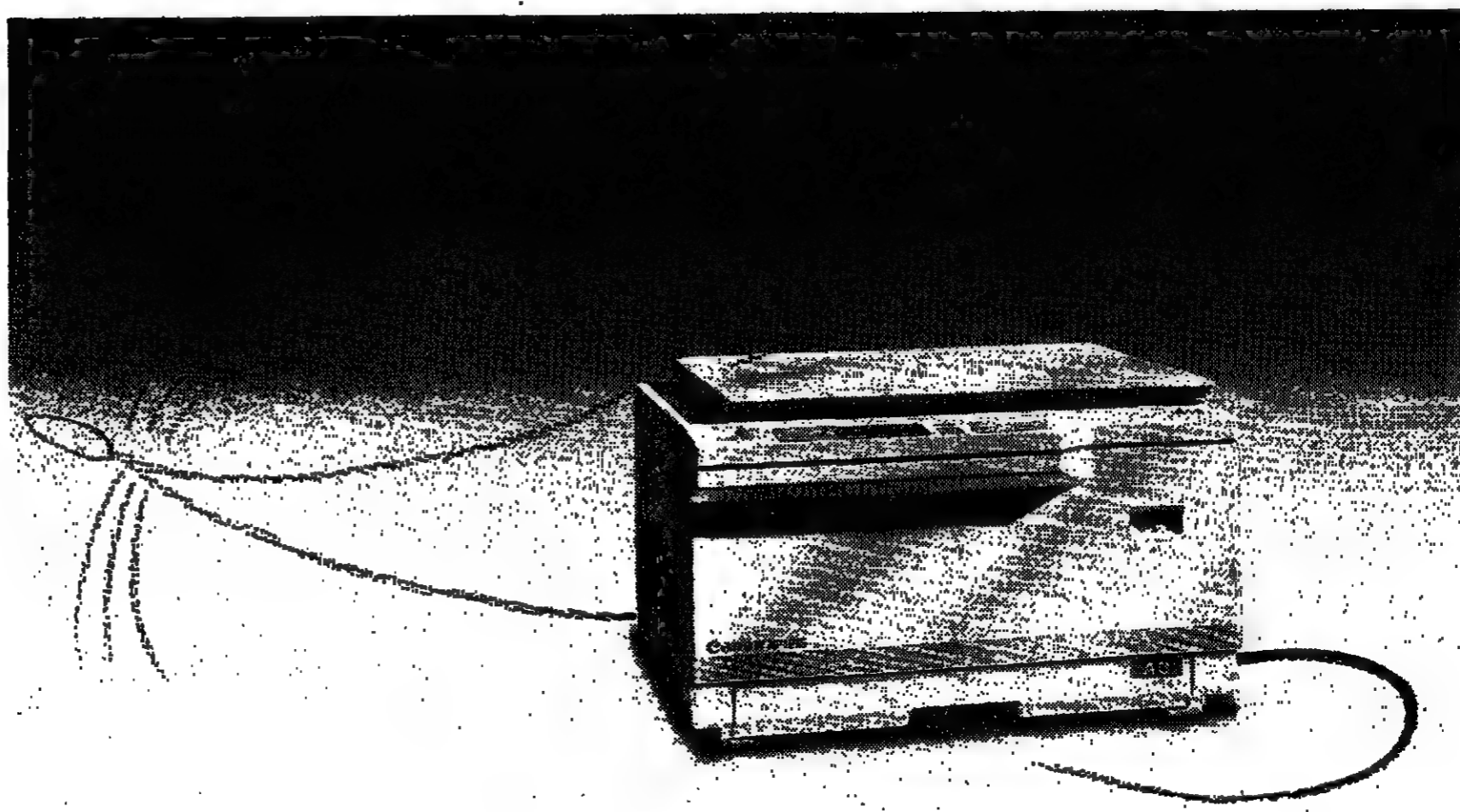
Each category of goods and services is weighted on the index. The main categories are housing — 17.5 per cent, food — 15.4 per cent and motoring — 1.3 per cent. Within housing, mortgage payments are 6 per cent, and rates — to be supplanted by poll tax — are 4.2 per cent.

The great bone of contention is the inclusion of mortgage interest payments, which fluctuate as interest rates move, producing volatility unrepresentative of general price movements.

Though the Government complains about this distorting factor, it works both ways. While making inflation look higher during periods of high interest rates, it also makes the year-on-year decline look much stronger as rates ease.

The Central Statistical Office also publishes the "underlying" inflation rate — the RPI stripped of seasonal food prices and mortgage interest payments. Last month, this measure was running at an annual rate of 6.1 per cent for the fourth successive month.

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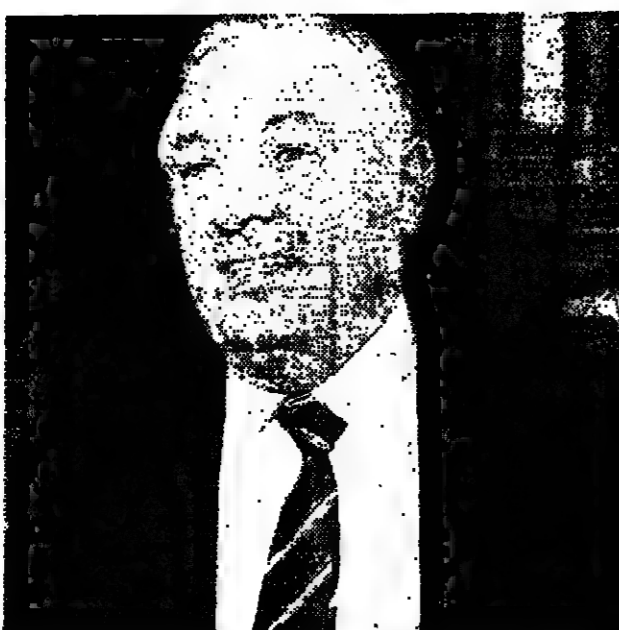
Bond Corporation Holdings Limited has again averted the threat of a wind-up by negotiating a deal to sell its Australian breweries to Bell Resources Limited, its rebel subsidiary - this time for Aus\$185 billion (£86.8 billion).

The deal was announced yesterday after intense negotiations. BRL will also emerge with 40 per cent of Bond Media Limited BOM, the operation of the national Nine television network. It will pay 40 cents a share (Aus\$83 million) for the stake, trumping a 10 cents a share bid for BOM by Mr Kerry Packer, Australia's richest man.

Bond Corp stands to lose about Aus\$240 million on the proposed deal over the BOM stake. This could rise to Aus\$300 million if its remaining 11 per cent stake is not sold at the same price.

As part of the deal, BRL won concessions from one of Bond Corp's biggest banks, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp, to relinquish mortgages it held over BOM shares and also over all its shares in Bond Brewing Holdings Limited, owner of Bond Corp's Australian assets.

The deal marks the third time the sale of Bond Corp has been negotiated with BRL. In May last year, Bond Corp said it was selling its Australian



Third time lucky: Alan Bond, chairman of Bond Corp and American brewing assets to BRL for \$3.5 billion, of which the Australian brewing interests accounted for \$2.5 billion. BRL paid a \$1.2 billion deposit for the brewery.

In December the US breweries were excluded from the deal and the purchase price of the Australian breweries was cut to \$2 billion.

Last Tuesday was the deadline to complete the deal. Failure would have meant BRL would proceed with a wind-up petition it had filed against Bond Corp in the

Progress cools at Johnson Cleaners

By Michael Tate

Hot weather at home and bad weather in the United States checked profits growth at Johnson Group Cleaners, Britain's largest dry cleaning group, last year.

Mr Terry Greer, chairman, unveiled pre-tax profits of £18.52 million for the year to end-December, against £16.96 million, but emphasized the contrast between a buoyant first half and a poor second half.

Summer's heatwave led customers to wear fewer, and more washable, clothes, cutting visits to the 752 British shops. Given the operation's fixed-cost nature, the effect on profits was magnified.

Hurricane Hugo's rampage across the Carolinas, where Johnson has 70 of its 300 US outlets, closed some, damaged many and affected them all.

Group turnover for the year rose 13.5 per cent to £141.1 million, but earnings per share have grown by just 7.6 per cent, to 55.3p. The dividend rises from 23.1p to 25.7p, with the recommendation of an 18.7p second interim. Gearing is about 27 per cent.

Johnson has about 24 per cent of the British dry-cleaning market. Monopolies considerations rule out rivaling the Compass bid for Skerchley.

Chairman plans to take oil company right to the top

Horton faces the BP challenge

By Graham Searjeant

Two days after axing 30 per cent of British Petroleum's head office managers, 60 per cent of central staff posts and three-quarters of its committees, Mr Robert Horton, the new chairman, was feeling relaxed and ready for his self-appointed challenge of making BP the most successful oil company in the 1990s.

The savings from head office (after a one-off cost of about £60 million) should give him a head start in advancing BP's financial success. Together with the savings from comparable cuts at BP Exploration (the upstream business) and BP Oil (the downstream refining and distribution), they should eventually boost last year's £1.7 billion profit by £300 million a year.

Like many industrialists of his generation, however, Mr Horton sets off in relatively uncharted waters in trying to move a huge business ahead instead of making it slimmer and fitter. He has given himself almost a full ten years.

He starts with a company that has consciously gone back to its roots. The process will be symbolically completed when BP's head office returns, self-consciously, to Sir Edwin Lutyens' old Britannic House, where the chairman's octagonal table and 1910 Persian carpet will surely look more natural.

There is still a little matter



Creating value for shareholders: Robert Horton of BP

of \$2 billion of coal and other assets - Mr Horton habitually talks in dollars and wants more US shareholders - which remain on the block.

"I am not interested in chasing growth or size for their own sake but in creating value for shareholders," says Mr Horton. "I am determined to maintain dividends in real terms and hope to do a bit better than that."

Growth must also come

companies and BP, Shell and Exxon will remain the top players.

That leaves BP in a long-standing dilemma. It depends more heavily than its rivals on production - about 55 per cent of operating profits from on-going activities - but its prime Alaskan and North Sea fields are mature and wasting assets.

On the distribution side, if BP rates as one of the top three, it is decidedly the weakest, with few positions of market leadership round the world outside the Soviet's Mid-West heartland.

Mr Horton sees plenty of new opportunities to replace reserves. "Gas is very, very important; the world has not yet grasped the full implications of the fact that gas produces only half the CO₂ from burning coal and two-thirds of that from fuel oil."

The oil shortage predicted for 1993-94 by BP and some oil analysts, which Mr Horton thinks will raise prices to less than \$25 per barrel, could also offer opportunities for a return to old glories.

He said the world was bound to become more dependent on Opec oil. BP also has possibilities in developing oil, and especially gas, supplies from the Soviet Union.

Mr Horton sees BP's focus moving downstream. "We have got to get ourselves to the number one position in a number of markets."

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Index	Value	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (p)	Yearly chg (p)	Daily chg (US\$)	Yearly chg (US\$)
The World	736.5	1.2	-12.7	0.3	-11.1	-0.4	-13.7
(free)	140.6	1.2	-12.8	0.3	-11.2	-0.4	-13.8
EAPE	1276.3	0.9	-17.9	0.1	-15.4	-0.5	-18.3
(free)	131.1	0.9	-18.2	0.0	-15.7	-0.5	-18.3
Europe	744.4	0.7	-2.2	0.2	-3.0	-0.8	-4.3
(free)	160.1	0.7	-2.1	-0.1	-3.1	-0.9	-4.5
Nth America	525.8	1.5	-2.3	0.0	-3.0	0.0	-3.4
Nordic	1558.8	1.4	0.1	0.5	-1.4	-0.1	-1.0
(free)	245.3	1.1	4.3	0.2	2.7	-0.4	3.0
Pacific	2902.4	1.1	-26.8	0.0	-22.8	-0.4	-27.7
Far East	4183.4	1.1	-27.5	0.1	-23.5	-0.4	-28.4
Australia	322.2	0.5	-7.2	-0.4	-3.6	-1.0	-4.3
Austria	2232.6	0.1	50.2	-0.6	49.9	-1.4	48.4
Belgium	929.8	2.0	-5.6	1.3	-7.1	0.4	-4.7
Canada	567.1	1.6	-5.6	0.0	-5.1	0.0	-4.7
Denmark	1417.3	0.8	7.7	0.0	5.8	-0.7	6.4
Finland	113.3	1.0	-1.8	0.2	-3.0	-0.8	-2.9
(free)	146.4	0.7	-1.8	0.0	-3.0	-0.8	-3.0
France	783.1	1.2	-3.2	0.4	-4.7	-0.3	-4.3
Germany	1005.8	2.5	9.6	1.8	9.2	1.0	8.3
Hong Kong	2325.0	3.6	4.8	2.1	3.7	2.1	3.8
Italy	361.8	1.2	-0.9	0.2	-2.8	-0.4	-2.1
Japan	4404.6	1.1	-28.6	0.0	-24.4	-0.5	-25.6
Netherlands	814.8	1.0	-3.3	0.3	-3.8	-0.5	-4.4
New Zealand	89.3	-1.7	-13.4	-2.2	-12.0	-3.2	-14.4
Norway	1646.6	0.4	22.7	-0.5	21.6	-1.1	21.2
(free)	208.7	0.1	22.7	-0.7	21.6	-1.4	21.3
Singapore	208.4	1.3	4.7	0.1	2.3	-0.2	3.4
Spain	209.4	0.8	-11.5	-0.2	-12.8	-0.7	-12.6
Sweden	1626.7	2.1	-7.3	1.0	-8.7	0.5	-8.4
(free)	227.0	2.1	-7.3	1.1	-7.8	0.5	-7.4
Switzerland	894.7	0.9	-2.2	0.1	-4.7	-0.8	-3.5
(free)	138.2	1.0	-2.2	0.1	-4.9	-0.5	-3.8
UK	666.8	-0.9	-7.5	-0.9	-7.5	-2.4	-3.8
USA	473.8	1.6	-2.0	0.0	-3.2	0.0	-3.2

March 21, 1990. Total: 42877 Calls 34224 Puts 15743. Underlying security prices.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

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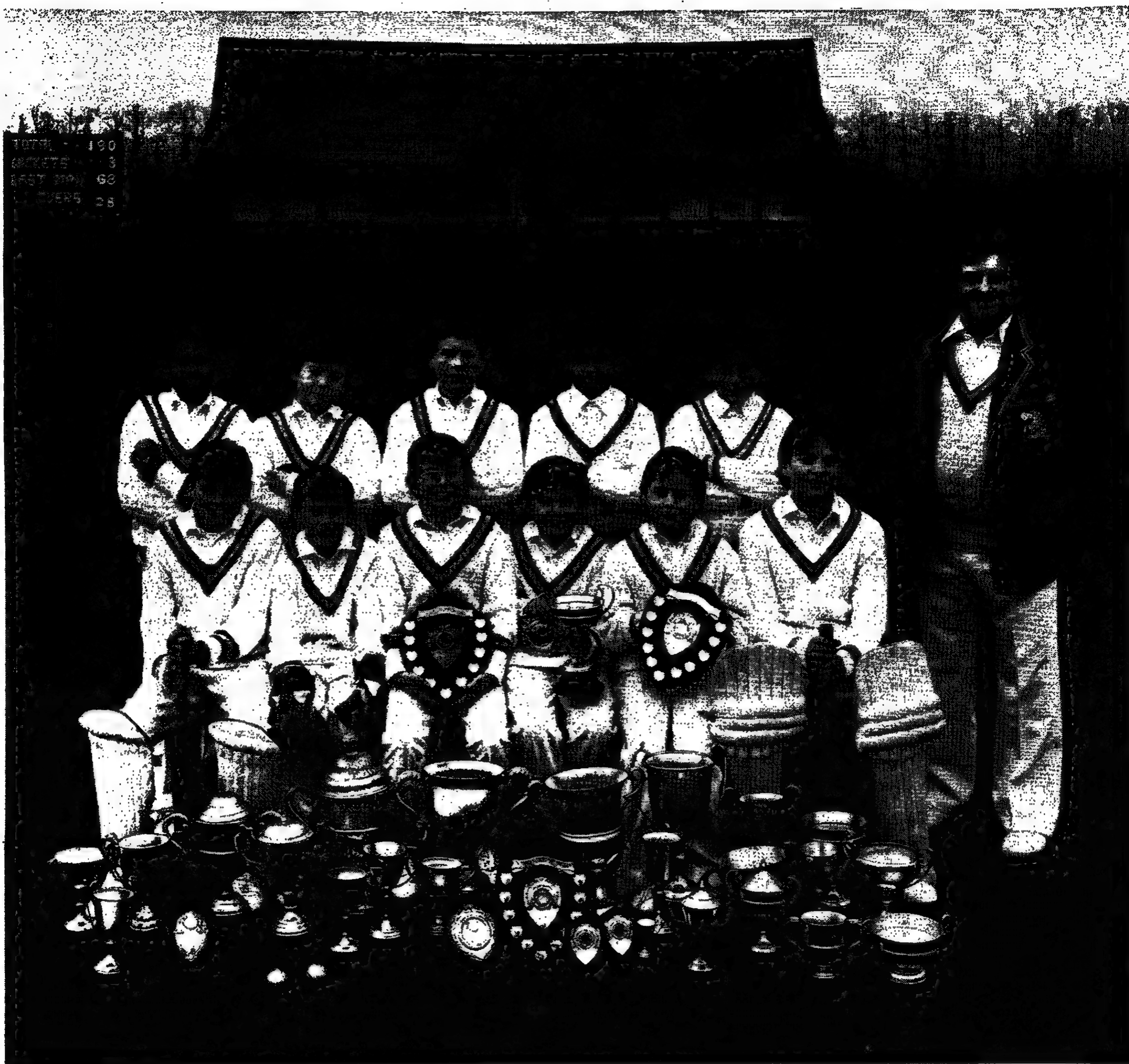
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No.	Company	Group	Gains or Loss
1	Canal Co	Canals/Ports	
2	Yellowhammer	Paper/Print/Adv	
3	TSB (sa)	Banking	
4	BSA (sa)	Automotive	
5	First Nat Fin	Banking	
6	Ferranti (sa)	Electronics	
7	British Rail	Transport	
8	McKintosh	Industrial L-R	
9	Keweenaw	Industrial L-R	
10	British Wharfedale	Industrial L-R	
11	Anglia Water	Water	
12	Synco	Industrial S-Z	
13	Wagon Ind	Industrial S-Z	
14	Rowland	Property	
15	CLH	Building/Roads	
16	Goldcrest	Paper/Print/Adv	
17	Scotney	Building/Roads	
18	TVS	Leisure	
19	General Motors	Motor/Aircraft	
20	Cookson (sa)	Industrial A-D	
21	Clackson (sa)	Transport	
22	Bridgford	Industrial A-D	
23	Balmer (H P)	Breweries	
24	Page & Son	Building/Roads	
25	Western Motor	Motor/Aircraft	
26	Fisher (James)	Transport	
27	Klein-EZE	Industrial E-K	
28	P-E International	Electronics	
29	Lox & Edin Ltd	Property	
30	Star Circle (sa)	Building/Roads	
31	Guinness (sa)	Breweries	
32	Trinity Ind	Newspaper/Pub	
33	United (sa)	Industrial S-Z	
34	Scott & Roberts	Industrial S-Z	
35	Black (A&C)	Newspaper/Pub	
36	Cannock	Industrial A-D	
37	Harrogate	Industrial E-K	
38	Sheffield Ind	Building/Roads	
39	Allied-Lyons (sa)	Food	
40	Abbey National (sa)	Banking	
41	Gibbs & Dandy Ord	Building/Roads	
42	Yorkshire Water	Water	
43	Dominion	Electronics	
44	RTV Group	Leisure	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

There were six winners of yesterday's Portfolio Platinum competition. The following each receive £333.33: Mr Alan Wright, of Bedhill, East Sussex; Dr Peter Moss, of Whalley, Lancashire; Dr Rodney R Weathered, of Nupend, near Stonehouse, Gloucestershire; Mr Lionel Charles Kent-Morgan, of Stogumber, Taunton, Somerset; Mr Alan Walker, of Mickleton, Gloucestershire; and Mr Michael Boardman, of Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire.

BRITISH FUNDS

100	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	100	100	100	100	0.00

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

100	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	100	100	100	100	0.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

100	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	100	100	100	100	0.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

100	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	100	100	100	100	0.00

UNDATED

100	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	100	100	100	100	0.00

INDEX-LINKED

100	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	100	100	100	100	0.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

100	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	100	100	100	100	0.00

ELECTRICALS

100	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	100	100	100	100	0.00

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities under pressure

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 12. Dealings end tomorrow. Contango day March 26. Settlement day April 2.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (sa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 30).

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

BREWERIES

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

BUILDING, ROADS

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

FINANCE, LAND

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

FOODS

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

DRAPEY, STORES

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

HOTELS, CATERERS

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

L-N

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

S-Z

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

INSURANCE

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

LEISURE

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

MINING

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

OILS, GAS

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
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1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

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1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

SHOES, LEATHER

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

TEXTILES

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1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

TOBACCO

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

TRANSPORT

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

WATER

1000	High	Low	Open	Close	%
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00

Ex dividend & Ex Div & Forecast dividend & Interim payment passed & Price at suspension & Dividend and Forecast earnings & Ex other & Ex rights & Ex scrip & share split & Tax-free. No significant data.

● MEDICINE: A BLOODY PAST
● SCIENCE: TEST-TUBE GOATS
● INVENTION: SUPER PHONES

Battle to beat airport bombers

Next month an anti-terrorist device goes on trial at Gatwick. Nick Nuttall and Chris Partridge describe the systems that have followed Lockerbie

During the next month a concrete bunker will take shape in the baggage handling section of Gatwick Airport. It marks the start of a project involving a £600,000 multi-ton American-made machine that will check every piece of luggage for bombs using a sophisticated irradiation technique. The device bathes the baggage in low-energy neutrons to detect any trace of explosives.

It is just one of a host of security techniques in which companies are trying to interest airports and airlines. They include taking video pictures of all passengers, their baggage and passport details, a tunnel through which passengers would have to pass, and concealed video cameras, installed on aircraft, that could provide crucial information during a hijack.

The installation of a thermal neutron analysis (TNA) machine at Gatwick will mark the beginning of a long-awaited Government-backed trial of the technology that has finally got the go-ahead more than a year after the explosion on Pan-Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie.

The machine, which will be on a 12-month trial with BAA, formerly the British Airports Authority, and the Transport Department, should be able to identify conventional bombs and plastic explosives and detect suspect baggage from the main conveyor belt into a special holding bay.

The Gatwick trial will be the basis for deciding whether similar machines should be installed at other international airports in Britain. A rival system developed in France is about to be installed at Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris.

The new and complex TNA systems are expected to be far more effective than the X-ray machines and metal detectors now used by airlines to search for hidden bombs.

The neutrons — heavy subatomic particles — emitted as a by-product of the TNA, interact with organic materials and produce characteristic gamma rays, which are picked up and analysed by computer.

They have the advantage that they are not fooled by ploys, including moulding the plastic explosive into a shape such as that of the sole of a trainer shoe.

The machine's limitation is that it can be fooled by innocent materials loaded with nitrates such as some varieties of woolly jumper, especially if it is set sensitively enough to detect all explosives.

In one series of Californian tests a TNA machine detected 95 per cent of the simulated explosives passed through them — a high but not perfect success rate. Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), the company in Santa Clara, California, that is behind the device, already has one installed at New York's JFK Airport, and final tests are being made on another at Miami International, Florida.

Dr Tahbi Gozani, the company's chief scientist, says that despite the machine's high initial costs, it can pay for itself in a year if passengers are charged \$2 a bag. "There is nothing 100 per cent about any system," he says. "This device basically clears bags, dividing those which are cleared from those which are unclear. It can detect the type of explosive and the size to 100 per cent security if you are prepared to accept large numbers of false alarms."

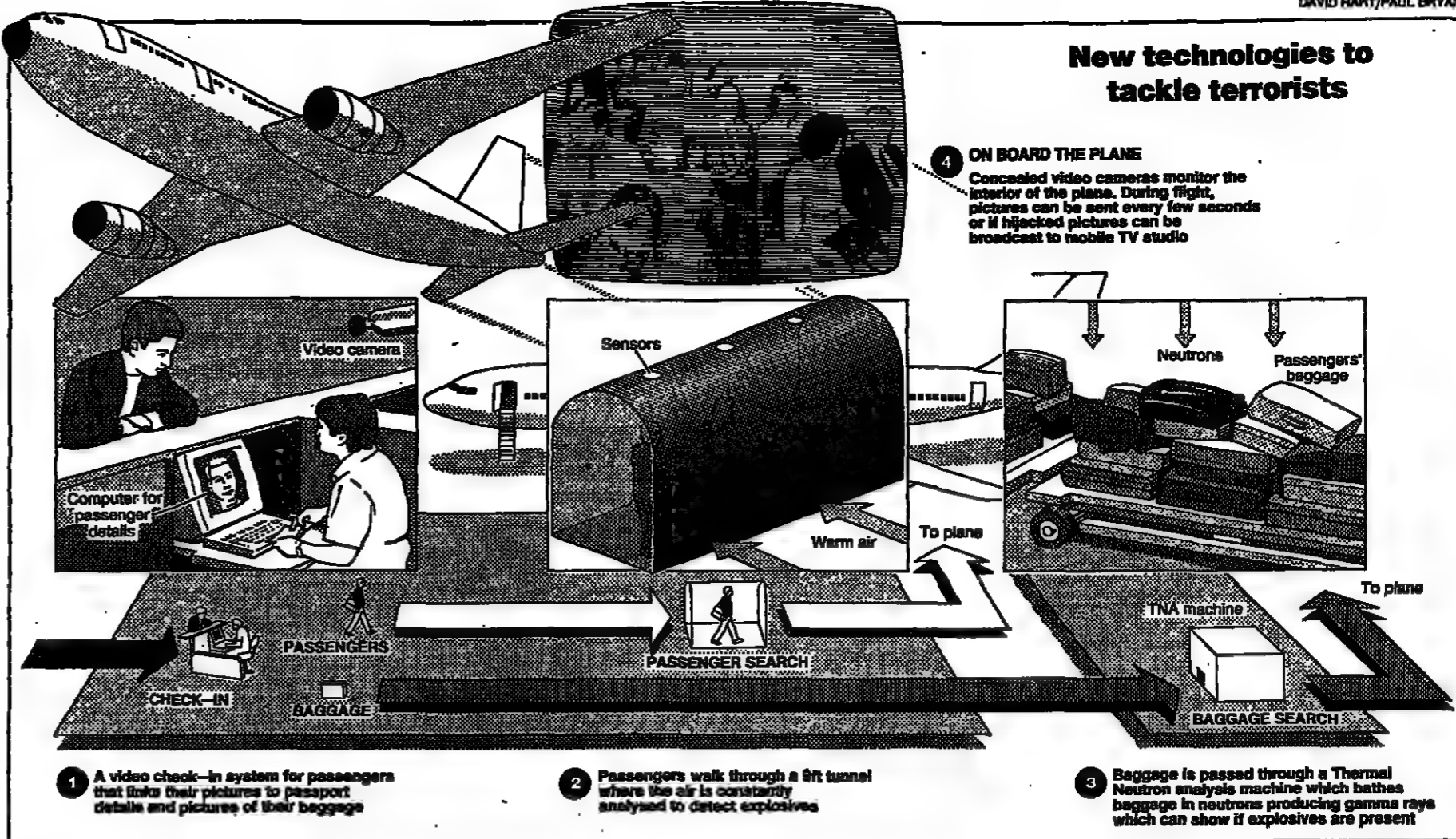
The Gatwick trial will be watched closely by scientists at the Atomic Energy Authority's Harwell Laboratories, who are designing their own TNA device with unnamed private industry and Transport Department support.

A prototype, claimed by the researchers to be potentially significantly cheaper than and superior to the American machine, has already been tested at an undisclosed British airport, a Harwell spokesman says.

One answer to the problem could be the addition of other security measures. Coupling an X-ray machine to TNA machines, for example, could reduce the false alarm rate to 2 per cent.

A limitation of the TNA technology is that passengers cannot be screened with radioactivity. But a significant threat is posed by passengers unwittingly carrying bombs aboard, as did the pregnant girlfriend of Nezar Hindawi, the Jordanian terrorist sentenced three years ago for attempting to blow up an Israeli aircraft at Heathrow Airport.

To plug this gap, passengers at departure lounges may have to walk through a 9ft-long tunnel,



buffeted by warm air, which is analysed on the spot to detect explosives. The device is being developed by Scintrex, a Canadian company that already makes a portable explosives detector in use by the Army in Northern Ireland.

The device uses gas chromatography, a common laboratory technique in which gas is separated into its component parts in a filter, the position on every component on the filter indicating its composition.

Companies are also investigating other techniques to find explosives hidden in baggage. Matsushita Electric, for example, has put its faith in a technique borrowed from biomedicine, which it will formally unveil in Japan next week.

Instead of using radiation, the company is harnessing antibodies to pinpoint vapours of explosive trinitrotoluene (TNT) coming from luggage or people.

Monoclonal antibodies bind to one specific reagent. In the case of the human body, an antibody will attack just one disease. Classically, antibodies work only with chemicals of high

molecular weight, whereas airborne molecules from TNT have a low molecular weight.

The achievement of the Japanese scientists has been to culture antibodies that will bind to these low-weight molecules.

Bathed in ultra-violet light, the sample or assay fluoresces when TNT is absent or fails to fluoresce if TNT molecules have been found. Traditional monoclonal assay tests require five hours and complex laboratory procedures. Matsushita claims its test can be done simply in less than a minute.

Matsushita is now refining the technology to detect organic chemicals such as those produced from Semtex and other plastic explosives.

British Aerospace has developed a bomb-sniffer that uses mass spectrometry called Condor, which "weights" atoms by deflecting them in an electric field, and a computer capable of identifying up to 64 substances monitors for the chemical fingerprints that indicate bombs.

But the first sign of increased vigilance at airports could be video cameras at every check-in if

'Passengers may be sent through a tunnel of warm air, which is analysed for explosives'

a development by a South Wales company takes off.

The company has adapted the animation technology developed to put the cartoon character Roger Rabbit next to real-life actors so that it photographs passengers when they check in and links them with their passport details, pictures of their luggage and time and date codes.

Ninety thousand single-frame shots can be stored on a laser disc or an hour-long video tape. "The population of the United Kingdom could be put on to a square metre of tape," says Keith Lewis, of EOS Electronics.

A single image can be retrieved by security and police officers looking for a suspect in seconds. Airport authorities hope the system may also act as a deterrent.

In the United States a different kind of video surveillance system has just been developed that broadcasts high-definition pictures every 22 seconds from the interior of an aircraft to security men on the ground.

Tests from an aircraft 38,000ft above New York to an undisclosed country in the Middle East have been conducted.

John Hale, of the developers, Say Zen, says the system could prove invaluable during a hijack attempt. Troops and police on the tarmac could already have valuable information about the number and position of the terrorists before storming the aircraft.

The hidden surveillance broadcast system can also be programmed to transmit one lower-definition picture every five seconds.

The in-flight broadcast system may offer one answer to hijacks, but a British system may make the broadcasting idea even more flexible.

The system, which is marketed by Fieldtech, a security and maintenance company in west London, involves hiding eight or more video cameras in the cabin in such a way as to cover all areas without revealing their presence.

All the cameras are linked to a concealed television transmitter. Once an aircraft is hijacked the airline's security officer would rush to the scene with what looks like an ordinary executive briefcase — except that it contains a complete, miniature television studio. Opening the briefcase reveals a small television monitor and a video-recorder.

Within a minute, the case can start receiving signals from the cameras in the aircraft. The link between the aircraft and the briefcase is encrypted in case the hijackers have friends on the ground with radio equipment.

The science and technology to prevent bombs being placed on aircraft is developing fast. What remains to be seen is how far governments insist on their installation or how far airlines, and ultimately their passengers, are willing to pay for them.

Scott of the Midwest

A bird protection project in the States will copy Sir Peter Scott's pioneering work

The approach pioneered by the late Sir Peter Scott at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, for the conservation of wildfowl, and the lakes and wetlands on which it thrives, is being adopted for the first comparable experiment in the United States (*People's Voice* writes).

The organization, which evolved from Sir Peter's work, the British Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, is establishing a new centre at Sturgis, Michigan, one of the many lakeland and wildfowl areas in the US.

The centre will be opened formally tomorrow by the newly formed American Friends of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. Professor David Gosling, an American biologist, and Douglas Hawley, head of the education department at Slimbridge, will explain plans that will start with a wetlands and conservation programme in local schools and the creation of a wetlands practical educational centre.

Professor Gosling has just returned to the US after sabbatical leave at Slimbridge, where he studied the type of wildlife research, educational projects and methods of developing and operating sites that the trust now applies at eight places in Britain — one each in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and five in England. He has also been a member of the Slimbridge trust for 25 years.

Although other American wildfowl groups are co-operating in the Sturgis venture, the British group differs by emphasizing site-based practical conservation work and broad educational schemes.

Vicki Copeland, who will be the assistant director, says: "The Wildfowl Trust was looking at a place on the East Coast when we



Looking and learning at Slimbridge: Sturgis will also have a window

explained how the Midwest is perfect for wetlands. We are surrounded by wetlands in Sturgis."

Professor Gosling says: "The educational centre will provide a window through which people can begin to appreciate the need to conserve the ecological web that links every living thing on this planet." Professor Gosling, who proposed the North American headquarters to trust officials last May, will be the centre's director.

Miss Copeland says the possibility of acquiring conservation management of several privately owned wetlands areas around Sturgis is being considered. But the plan is to model the project on pioneering work at Slimbridge,

which promotes conservation of the world's geese, swans and ducks and the wetlands areas that support waterfowl and other wildlife. Prince Charles is president of the 38,000-member organization.

In addition to providing educational programmes in nature conservation, the new centre is intended to be a base from which to expand on its 100 North American members.

The trust employs more than 20 full-time researchers and co-ordinates wetlands and wildfowl information from about 1,500 volunteers. It conducts breeding programmes and provides natural and re-created refuge areas for wildfowl species threatened in their native habitat.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Frozen embryos are helping the Soviet Union to improve its goat-milk yield, Pearce Wright reports



Milk of kindness: British Saanens (above) and cashmere kids, raised from imported Siberian embryos (right) and shown with their British mother, are being used to try to raise Soviet yields

A variation of the techniques that make test-tube babies possible is being used in experiments to establish new types of animal husbandry in the Soviet Union and Scotland.

The results of one project, which could influence Soviet attempts to move from bureaucratic collectives to leased family farms, should be known next month. It depends on the birth of British Saanen bred kids from frozen embryos transported last December to the Siberian artificial insemination farm, 200 miles from the "science city" of Novosibirsk.

The object is to determine whether high-yield dairy herds

can be established in Siberia to provide the record levels of milk, yoghurt and cheese production achieved in a special flock of British Saanens that has provided the experimental progeny.

More than 200 embryos were taken from 25 of the most productive goats in a herd formed more than 50 years ago in Berkshire at the Shinfield farm of the Agricultural and Food Research Council Institute for Grassland and Animal Production. The Shinfield herd was chosen

for its high milk yield, of up to 1,000 litres over 200 to 250 days, and because records of breeding performance and production have been kept since 1939, which enabled Soviet experts to judge its quality as a genetic resource.

Before choosing stock from Shinfield for the frozen embryo experiment, Soviet experts analysed the yield records of all the donor dams, the records for their female ancestors and the descendants of the buck selected for the insemination programme.

Even so, the frozen embryos were held in suspended animation for a quarantine period until tests to ensure that none of the donor animals had any incipient disease.

The freezing, storage, transport, thawing and re-implantation of the embryos into Soviet surrogate mothers was done by a team working with Dr Bill McKelvey, of Edinburgh Genetics, the commercial arm of the Scottish College of Agriculture.

In fact, the export of British Saanens is the second Anglo-

Soviet venture in an exchange of frozen embryos by his group. The other project, which involved the transfer of Siberian cashmere goats to Scotland, should reach its second phase next month when two herds formed from 220 kids, born to surrogates last year from frozen embryos, produce a first generation of offspring.

Whereas the Saanens are needed in the Soviet Union to establish a productive goat's milk industry, the Siberian breed is to provide a new

farming opportunity for Scotland and an alternative source of fibre for a burgeoning cashmere industry that imports all of its 1,200 tonnes, worth £60 million a year.

The aim is to breed an indigenous animal capable of competing with the goats in China, Afghanistan, Iran and Mongolia that supply high-quality cashmere fibre.

Under a two-year programme partly funded by the European Community, two herds have been established by the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute outside Edinburgh and the Scottish College of Agriculture to breed a strain of cashmere native goat able to match the quality and quantity of its eastern counterparts.

Test-tube diplomacy

Workstation humbles supercomputer

A new workstation computer costing only £25,000 beat a £2.5 million supercomputer in handling certain problems? Apparently so. Independent researchers from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California have tested a recently announced IBM workstation against a Cray supercomputer costing more than £2.5 million.

The verdict is that for certain scientific calculations, the workstation is faster and, by implication, would be able to handle some problems better than a big mainframe computer.

Eugene Brooks, a researcher, first tested a program that simulated the

A test of two machines may mean big savings for business users

operation of a nuclear reactor and discovered that it ran 10 per cent faster on the IBM 6000 series model 530 workstation. Another program that simulated a computer network ran more than 50 per cent faster.

The workstation uses a technology known as RISC, or reduced instruction set computing, which simplifies the design and makes for faster operation. Unlike other workstations, the IBM version also includes a process known as superscalar execution, which means the machine can handle as many as five instructions at once. The results do not mean that mainframe and

supercomputers will instantly become obsolete because there are many tasks that are impossible to handle on workstations.

For example, problems where long strings of calculations are needed, such as weather prediction or crash simulation, still require the capabilities of supercomputers.

Manufacturers of larger computers are firmly resisting suggestions that ever more powerful desktop computers will put them and their machines — which can cost hundreds of thousands of pounds — out of business. The prediction of the death of minicomputers and main-

frames has, they say, been greatly exaggerated.

But manufacturers of larger computers are facing fierce competition from the linking of relatively cheap desktop computers and workstations, coupled with an increasing belief by customers that the huge price difference between large and personal computers can no longer be justified.

Even companies, such as IBM, with a chip firmly in both camps, face the problem of trying to attract new customers with so-called "killer micros" without losing revenues from existing customers, who

realize they may be able to move to the new breed of smaller computers with a huge financial saving. Measured purely in terms of power, the price per MIPS — million instructions per second — of the new IBM workstations, is far below that of the company's mainframes.

Demand for large mainframes and supercomputers is still being maintained, but that for conventional minicomputers and small mainframes is weakening.

So far, workstations have been aimed largely at scientists and engineers. They are expected to appeal increasingly to commercial customers.

Matthew May

Hard times for the contractors

Daily rates for freelancers are still good — but the vacancies are fewer

Freelancers employed in information technology have seen their market boom during the past decade. But the fifth Contractors Show starting in London tomorrow takes place amid what may be turning into a shrinking market.

Recruitment firms report that a recession in IT is resulting in fewer and shorter contracts. Many companies are loath to start internal-development projects and are either delaying projects or buying in already developed software packages to contain costs.

A & G Marketing has conducted a survey with the recruitment agencies before every Contractors Show. It reports this year that most contractors are being hired for only three to six months, when most positions last year were for six months or more.

This is reflected in figures of vacancy rates compiled from firms attending the show. They say they expect the contractor market to grow by 5 per cent this year, compared with their expectation of 15 per cent growth last year.

One leading agency describes the market as "very flat" and says that there has been no growth since last year. Other agencies say the market has reduced. George Coggan, of Fernhart Select, says: "The number of vacancies is 60 per cent down on the same time last year. Companies are not filling places — we have more contractors than positions on our books."

Christine Symons, the show organizer, says agencies are "feeling a little of a cold wind" and that the number attending this year is slightly down. She attributes this to agencies cutting costs.

The slower market is also having a more direct effect on agencies: several have merged or gone out of business. Mrs Symons says: "Two or three small agencies have gone out of business in recent weeks."

The National Computing Centre's (NCC) annual survey

of business users last year showed that just under 10 per cent of all system-development staff were contractors. Salaries have improved in line with inflation for those with a contract. They still, however, earn an average of £28,000, about double that for permanent staff.

Contracting remains attractive because of the pay, and attendance at the two-day show are expected to be high. About 4,500 IT employees attended last year's.

The NCC says that average daily rates charged last year were £223 for system analysts and £172 for programmers. Consultants averaged £325. Most assignments are still for programmers, but top-level IT consultants, who earn the highest rates, are experiencing declining demand as companies cut costs.

Contractors are also facing stiff competition from professional computer-services companies. Many software houses now let their staff for hire to businesses on short-term contracts.

The Price Waterhouse consultancy conducts a quarterly survey with business managers. It has coined the phrase "outsourcing" to describe companies' use of both categories of contractors. It reports that a quarter of IT staff are outsourced and that over the use of packages is included, more than 60 per cent of software is not developed in-house.

Could the downward trend be temporary? Roger Palmer, marketing director of MDA Computer Group, claims the market is often dull at this time of year because it is the end of the financial year for many companies. He adds: "The market has slowed, but it will pick up."

Leslie Tilley

• The Contractors Show (0990 23203) is on at the New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London WC2, tomorrow and Saturday.

CAN YOU FILL IN THE GAPS IN OUR I.T. ORGANISATION? I.T. IN ACTION

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The development of Information Technology is seen as critical to the achievements of the Council's business objectives. We are therefore implementing an innovative and progressive strategy to deliver fundamental improvements in our systems.

OUR I.T. STRATEGY

Built around the Council's unique structure which organises all of its services in seven autonomous Neighbourhoods, our strategy is as ambitious as anything being pursued in local government. The technology is at the leading edge and we are installing a network of IBM AS400s — one in each Neighbourhood and one for the central departments. We need staff to work on priority applications, e.g. Social Services, Housing Repairs, Personnel, to work in our project office co-ordinating the Strategy and to lead or assist in the setting up of a help desk service — up to £20,000.

Resources are not just required for the central I.T. group. Our Neighbourhoods also need Systems Administrators for the new AS400s. We need a number of staff to run the AS400 on a day-to-day basis. This will be an excellent training ground for a career in I.T. — up to £15,000.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Technical support is critical to the success of all our I.T. projects and we have a separate team specialising in network management, telecommunications, security and data protection. We need people keen to learn the technical aspects of I.T. or with considerable experience in running networks or leading on telecommunication projects — up to £20,000.

MICRO APPLICATIONS

Micro applications form another important arm in the overall development of Information Technology both in the Neighbourhoods and the Centre with a user base in excess of 500. Tower Hamlets has standardised on IBM hardware and the following software: dBase, dBase, Clipper and PageMaker. We need people with a proven track record in applications development and support. Experience in Novell networks and PC based project management would also be useful — up to £20,000.

DIRECT LABOUR SYSTEM

In parallel with these developments, the Council is also implementing a discrete BULL direct labour system. This is seen as crucial to the long term survival of our direct labour organisation and its successful introduction is of the highest priority. We need someone to run the new system and more junior staff to assist in the on-going development — up to £20,000.

FINANCIAL SYSTEMS

Additionally, our financial systems are delivered through a shared mainframe which is managed outside the organisation by LOLA but which requires a level of co-ordination and direction from the Authority. We need staff comfortable and interested in working with financial systems. Some experience in finance would be advantageous — up to £18,500.

NEIGHBOURHOOD I.T. OFFICER

Popular Neighbourhood require an Information Technology Officer to manage their local I.T. team — you will be responsible for the Neighbourhood's I.T. strategy, local PC developments, telecommunications and integration into the various corporate I.T. initiatives — up to £20,000.

TRAINING/MANAGING THE CHANGE

All of the above are underpinned and supported by training both for the user and management. It has a high profile and is seen as essential to effective implementation in every area. In keeping with our commitment to training, this team needs more resources. You could be a trainer interested in I.T. or an I.T. specialist interested in training — up to £20,000.

Clearly, we are looking for a wide range of individuals: this could therefore be your first venture into I.T. or it could be your opportunity to lead a team developing a major application on our AS400s. The implementation of our strategy requires individuals of the highest calibre both in the central group and the Neighbourhood teams.

If you have the necessary skills and experience, or simply an interest, in any of the above, we would like to hear from you. We are strongly committed to the personal and technical development of our staff and will make a major commitment to improving your skills and broadening your experience. As you can see, salaries range from £10,000 to £20,000 plus a competitive benefits package. A full information pack including job descriptions, person specifications and full details about our I.T. initiatives is available from Personnel Reception, Town Hall, Patriot Square, London E2 9LN, or telephone: 01-980 4831 ext 5218.

Furthermore if you wish to discuss any of the above posts or what is going on in I.T. in Tower Hamlets, please ring John Tipping on extension 5263.

Tower Hamlets

Tower Hamlets has transformed local Government by modernising service delivery and accessibility to seven Neighbourhoods.

What Tower Hamlets is achieving today others will attempt tomorrow. The commitment, energy, drive and innovation of staff are essential to our success.

Tower Hamlets is committed to effective implementation of its Equal Opportunities Policy. Applications are considered on the basis of their suitability for the post(s) regardless of sex, sexual orientation, religion, racial origin, marital status, disability or age.

All jobs are open to jobholders unless otherwise stated. The Council's recruitment and retention package could mean subsidised car leasing, a relocation package worth up to £5,000, housing loan facilities, free life insurance, subsidised meals and travel allowances.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Medicine's bloody revolution

The future of medicine depends largely on learning lessons from the past. That message emerges from a new exhibition which traces some of the medical advances and setbacks of the last 150 years.

When King's College Hospital, opened near Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, in 1840, it had an abattoir on one side and a graveyard on the other, and medicine had a close relationship with both. The average lifespan among the capital's working class was a mere 22 years.

Operations were performed with primitive anaesthetics by surgeons using knives that resembled butchers' cleavers and, not surprisingly, at least half of their patients died. Leeches were employed to bleed fevers, nurses were untrained, and antiseptics were unknown.

The "Leeches to Lasers" exhibition, which opened yesterday, reflects the development of King's and chronicles a century and a half of social agonies and scientific progress in British health care. It also shows that, in some ways at least, little has changed.

Doctors fretted about the impact on public health of raw sewage poured every day into the Thames. Politicians were more pragmatic. In 1856 the stench from the river was so bad that curtains soaked in chlorine of lime were draped across the windows of the Houses of Parliament.



The new hospital was hardly opened before it was closing some of its wards and turning away patients because of a lack of funds. Conditions were so awful that Robert Bentley Todd, first dean of the medical department, took pity and offered some of his charges a glass of warmed brandy — thus inventing what we know now as a hot toddy.

The first nurses training school in London was established at the hospital in 1856. The women worked an average of 70 hours a

Thomson Prentice reviews a medical exhibition that chronicles a century and a half of social agonies and scientific progress in British health care

Left: An early appliance for inhaling chloroform, which was taken by Queen Victoria in 1853 during the birth of Prince Leopold, on the advice of her doctor, John Snow, and (right) a drawing of one of the first X-ray machines



infected died within days in the hospital's cholera wards.

Florence Nightingale, who worked at King's in 1876, wrote in a letter to *The Times* in 1876: "Hospitals are but an intermediate stage in civilization. The ultimate object is to nurse all the sick at home." Her sentiments are finding favour with health planners in today's beleaguered National Health Service.

Joseph Lister was appointed professor of clinical surgery at King's in 1877. His obsession with

cleanliness led him to develop the first antiseptics. He used carbolic acid in wound dressings and sprayed it into the air.

Post-surgical death rates on his ward dropped from 50 per cent to 1.5 per cent, and the hospital's general mortality rate fell to 9 per cent. By then, general anaesthesia, using chloroform and ether, were being gradually introduced in British hospitals. Queen Victoria had taken it in 1853 for the birth of Prince Leopold, on the advice of her doctor, John Snow.

A drawing of the device is contained in *The Illustrated History of Surgery*, by Knut Hager, recently published by Harold Stark, London.

King's College Hospital moved to its present site in Denmark Hill, Camberwell, south-east London, in 1913. Since then it has become one of London's largest general hospitals and has an international reputation in medical research.

It is at the forefront of diabetes treatment, cardiac surgery, organ transplantation, infertility treatment and the use of lasers in eye operations.

● The "Leeches to Lasers" exhibition, is at King's College, The Strand, London, until March 30. From April 9 until May 1 it will be staged at King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rossmore Road, London SE5. It is open from 9am until 6pm on weekdays and from 10am until 5pm at weekends. Admission is free.

Computer hacker strikes again

A computer network that carried a virus which brought hundreds of computers to a halt in 1988 is under attack by a hacker again.

A computer intruder has been discovered stealing passwords and erasing files from dozens of computers linked to the Internet network in the United States, which links corporations, universities, military installations and government laboratories throughout the world. The hacker has been identified as breaking into the computers of, among others, the Los Alamos laboratory, Digital Equipment and Harvard University.

The rogue program is using known security flaws on the network, but it is particularly galling for security chiefs that it is the same one that was jammed by a computer virus written by Robert Morris in November 1988.

The current intruder is not a replicating virus like that written by Mr Morris but a single program that systematically tries to enter different computers and having gained access steals coded files containing passwords.

The file is then copied to another computer where the password can be decoded. The hacker has also included a

section in the program which erases files that could help computer security experts to track down where the information is going.

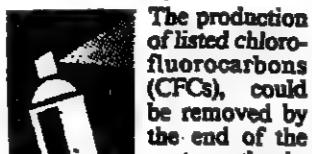
Although the passwords are in a scrambled form, experts believe the hacker has been able to decode the files. He has broken into Internet via a series of different computers to prevent officials being able to trace the calls.

Those involved in trying to stop the hacker include a Computer Response Emergency Team set up by Carnegie Mellon University's software engineering institute in Pittsburgh. It has confirmed that "several dozen" of the thousands of computers connected to the network have been broken into. But damage by the intruder has been minimal, according to government officials.

Like other countries, the US has become concerned that its computer networks are not secure. In January, Mr Morris was convicted of computer hacking after disrupting thousands of computers and causing damage estimated at millions of pounds. He has not yet been sentenced, but faces up to five years in jail and fines of up to \$250,000.

Matthew May

Progress on CFCs



The production of listed chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), could be removed by the end of the century, thanks to three weeks of meetings in Geneva by countries which signed the Montreal Protocol. Under the protocol, signed in 1987, the signatories were to cut CFCs by 50 per cent by 1999. Now about 50 nations, including the world's biggest producers and consumers of the gases that damage the ozone layer, are expected to adopt much more severe cuts at a meeting in London scheduled for June. It will cover CFCs used in refrigeration and aerosol sprays, as well as carbon tetrachloride and methyl trichloride used as solvents in industry.

Mars food bars

A manned expedition to Mars could take three years and present considerable problems on how enough food, water and oxygen should be carried. Scientists are looking at the possibility of farming in space to provide food for crews and to absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen. At the Kennedy Space Centre, wheat, soy beans, rice and some vegetables are being grown in special "biomass" chambers, where plants are fed by a continuously flowing nutrient film. NASA is also studying a salad machine to grow vegetables as well as looking at the possibility of algae and bacteria as food. But in a study at the University of California, people trying to use bacteria for food suffered gout and other side-effects.

Water alert

Nitrate pollution has made drinking water unsafe for pregnant women and newly born babies in 24 municipalities of northern Belgium. More than 120,000 families have received letters from the authorities warning them to use mineral water if they are pregnant or have babies under four months to avoid the possibility of contracting cyanosis. Nitrate levels in Belgium should be below 50 milligrams per litre, but have risen as high as 75 milligrams. Officials have blamed excessive farm fertilization and pollution, caused by last year's dry summer, for the problems.

Video show

Videophiles are promised a plethora of pocket-size camcorders, wide-screen television sets and videophones at the Video Show to be held this weekend at the Horticultural Halls, Westminster Exhibition Centre, London SW1. It will include demonstrations of a home television projector that puts images up to 8ft on the wall and the first video telephone about to go on general sale in Britain. The show runs from Friday afternoon until Sunday and the entry fee is £3.50.

BRIEFING

Wonder wobble

A tiny motor, no larger than a few human hairs, which can run at more than 100,000 revolutions a minute, has been developed and could eventually be used in scientific instruments or for surgery. The machine, known as a wobble motor, is a tiny rod that turns inside a shaft and is driven by applying a voltage to various points embedded in the wall of the shaft. The developers at the University of Utah say the motor wobbles rather than rotates as there is less friction.

Papal warning

Pope John Paul II has warned of the dangers to humanity from advanced technology. His remarks were made during a visit to Olivetti's headquarters in Ivrea, Italy, and included the dangers of making technological choices based solely on profits, a morally unacceptable growth in unemployment and the sacrifice of man to machine with a loss in the quality of life. The Pope also warned of the temptation to make technology a new idol.

Game of strife

A new style of video game where a player's movements are captured by a video camera and become part of the game is being developed by Toronto-based Video Effects. The system makes it possible to conceive elaborate video adventure games, where, for example, the player is placed inside the scene on the television set and can battle a monster. It is also possible to play musical instruments without touching them. In one demonstration by the company, a user can play drums just by making drumming motions. The system, known as Mandela, is being sold to museums, science centres and theme parks, although the company is also designing versions for the home.

Pest attack

Scientists at the University of Cardiff have been awarded a £5-million research project to develop more environment-friendly pest control systems for Europe's olive oil industry. The work will centre on how parasitic insects can be used to replace chemicals to attack damaging pests and use of sex-attracting chemicals to lure them into traps. The university will co-ordinate the work of colleagues in Spain, Italy and Greece for the project which is being partly funded by the European Commission. More than £50 million is spent on chemical pesticides for the £3-billion olive oil industry, but pests and plant diseases can still result in crop losses of up to 30 per cent.

Matthew May

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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An amazingly fast new digital communications network is launched next month. Peter Purton reports

At long last, the future arrives

A new telephone network which can handle two calls at once, transmit computer data while someone is talking and which paves the way for videophones — over existing telephone lines — will become available next month.

British Telecom will make an initial 90,000 lines available for the service and expects that millions could be using it by the end of the decade.

Called the integrated services digital network (ISDN), it is a product of the futuristic thinkers of the 1970s, and has taken a lot longer to arrive than was hoped.

What distinguishes ISDN is that it is a digital technology, like the compact disc or the computer. This means that information — for instance, the voice — is sent encoded as numbers rather than electrical signals.

It is claimed to be practically immune to interference and promises crystal clear communication. Businesses already have access to some of its facilities via expensive private or leased lines, but the advantage of ISDN is that it will work over existing telephone lines when introduced at a local exchange.

The system, it is predicted, will offer up to 100 times improvement in performance, and — because people are charged by the length of a call — a reduction in costs. Many experts believe this will encourage a whole new range of services. Experience from other countries suggests they may be right.

In the United States, it is being used to transmit X-ray images from a patients' clinic to a central site, where a radiologist makes a diagnosis. This dramatically cuts patients' travel time and uses expensive medical experts more efficiently.

A hotel in Reno, Nevada, is using the network to beat its rivals to guests arriving at the airport. At the touch of a video screen, they can reserve a room, check in, make dinner reservations or book a show. The screen also displays images of the hotel rooms, restaurant menus, and lists special events.

Publishers are using it to get copies of photographs from all over the world. With the old picture wire service, a publishable image takes 20 minutes to transmit. Time magazine's New York headquarters gets pictures from its Paris office in just 15 seconds.

And in San Ramon, California, a computer disaster recovery service uses the system to help businesses whose computer systems have failed.

In West Germany, the new network is centralizing control of manufacturing equipment. And in

'The integrated services digital network will help make the facsimile a household item around the year 2000. Home users will receive their mail and newspapers by fax and even written traffic updates in their cars'

Tseuno Hara of Canon



Calls that can track you down

The office to be chosen can even be linked to the time of day or day of the week. For example, Monday to Friday all calls could go to London, but weekend callers could be routed to a recorded message from Birmingham. Calls can also be assigned

British Telecom and Mercury are also developing a message-based signalling system for ISDN, called the Intelligent Network. Unlike conventional telephone systems, where signals are simple pulses of current or pitch changes, ISDN uses its own special computer language. This can convey information such as a call's priority or the caller's identification.

For instance, business customers with offices in London, Manchester and Glasgow can be offered a single telephone number and the network will route the call to the nearest office to the caller.

France, a chain of estate agents is using ISDN to show clients images and details of properties stored in a central computer.

Here at home, a London-based specialized printer has been using a high resolution full-colour graphics system since 1985. It shows work to clients — sometimes hundreds of

miles away — making approval much faster.

Other potential uses are the sending of high-speed, high-resolution faxes, improved line quality so that music over the telephone will sound much better, and very fast data transmission.

It will also be technically feasible

priority status. For instance, a 999 call could override a less important one. Or in a major disaster, emergency services could be assured the connections they need. Calls with no chance of getting through to an engaged number could be halted before they get on to the main network — useful where numbers are shown on television.

Domestic telephone users may even be able to take their telephone number with them wherever they go. Users could simply enter a personal identification number to have the call charged to their home

to introduce the controversial caller identification service, where callers' numbers are displayed on a small screen before a call is answered.

ISDN offers two communications channels per line rather than the single line of today's telephone system. And because connections are set up using computer tech-

niques rather than simple electro-mechanical or electronic switching methods, the network even makes intelligent decisions, such as how to route calls most effectively or assign different levels of priority to different types of call.

But one of the most significant differences between ISDN and today's telephone system is that it treats voice conversations, fax transmissions or computer-to-computer data calls in exactly the same way.

Today's telephone lines can be adapted to carry data via so-called modems, which convert digital to analogue signals and vice versa. This is how today's fax machines, computers and even hole-in-the-wall cash machines communicate. But because the system is designed to carry voice and not data, a relatively complex and time-wasting start-up routine is required.

Even the fastest of today's data links over telephone lines can only manage to relay 19,200 bits of information a second — that is about two seconds for an A4 page of text. Typically, people use 1,200 or 2,400 bits a second. ISDN can handle 64,000 bits a second on each of its two channels.

From April 24, it is planned that hundreds of businesses will be able to use the new service. By the end of next year, 2,000 local exchanges should be able to provide ISDN. By the middle of the decade it will be offered as the regular telephone service nationwide.

The only sour note to the whole ISDN story is the worry expressed by some experts that it will not be cheap enough for widespread acceptance. BT has not yet announced tariffs, but they are expected to be considerably higher — particularly the connection and standing charges — than the charges for conventional systems.

Estimates of the initial cost of an ISDN telephone of between £300 and £500 compare to between £10 and £40 for a conventional telephone. And ISDN facsimile machines are currently thousands of pounds. ISDN's prices will have to fall to the same level as today's equipment if it is to have broad appeal.

Many experts believe, however, that within a few years ISDN will have a great impact on the way we use communications in the home. Tseuno Hara, group executive for Japanese giant Canon, predicts that ISDN will help make the facsimile a household item around the year 2000.

Home users, predicts Mr Hara, will receive their mail and newspapers by fax and even written traffic updates in their cars.

SCIENCE REPORT

Mini-mice clue to dwarfism

Genetically-engineered mice could shed light on human growth defects

Miniature mice could yield important clues about human dwarfism, according to new research. The genetically engineered mice are 40 per cent smaller than ordinary mice, but have similar concentrations of growth hormone in their bloodstreams.

So their genetics might help researchers understand the root cause of growth-hormone-resistant dwarfism in humans, in which people do not grow, even after treatment with growth hormone.

Writing in tomorrow's issue of *Science*, Xin Xiang, Kathleen Benson and Kiran Chada of the University of Medicine and Dentistry in Piscataway, New Jersey, describe how they created strains of "mini-mice" after injecting a fragment of a human gene into a mouse embryo, raising the mouse to maturity, then breeding from it. This founder mouse looked normal, but one of its grand-daughters turned out to be a dwarf.

She was just the first of a whole race of mini-mice — perfectly healthy, but unusually small. Mini-mice occur quite naturally, when a gene on chromosome 10 refuses to work normally. In the artificially created mini-mice, the human gene fragment spliced itself into that very gene on chromosome 10, disrupting its function and achieving the same results.

There were two quite different versions of the artificial mini-mouse gene in the founder mouse pedigree, called "A" and "B". The "A" version came first, when the introduced human-gene sequence interrupted the mouse gene on chromosome 10. But somewhere along the line, a genetic rearrangement in

some of the cells of the developing founder mouse led to a massive deletion in the "A" gene, producing version "B" as a derivation.

Both versions made mini-mice, and the researchers spent much time teasing the two apart to create not one, but two distinct strains of growth hormone, one pure-bred for the "A" mutation, the other for the "B".

All the variations echo a very definite theme, though — that of growth-hormone-resistant dwarfism. Some forms of dwarfism result when the body cannot make enough growth hormone to go round.

Hormone supplements can "cure" the condition in many cases. But mini-mice have the same amount of growth hormone as their bigger brothers and sisters; the problem is that the hormone is not getting through to the cells that need it.

The researchers do not know the function of the gene on chromosome 10 but a clue could come from recent family studies on a rare dwarfism in humans.

Laron dwarfism in humans is inherited in the same way as the artificially altered gene in mini-mice, and is growth-hormone-resistant. Research published last year (*Science* Report, November 1, 1989) linked at least some — but not all — cases of Laron dwarfism with a defect in a gene that makes a certain protein that sits on cell surfaces.

This protein's job is to capture floating molecules of growth hormone. Without the receptor, cells are effectively "blind" to the hormone, no matter how much of it is in the blood.

Henry Gee

(© Nature Times News Service 1989)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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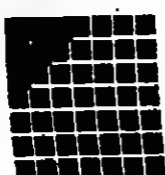
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before 5pm on Monday, 2nd April 1990.

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Court of Appeal

'As' means 'in the manner of' for radio pirates

Regina v Murray and Others
Before Lord Justice Watkins,
Mr Justice Wainman and Mr Justice
Nolan

[Judgment March 19]
The words "as mentioned in the foregoing subsection" in section 3(2) of the Marine, Broadcasting (Offences) Act 1967 should be interpreted as referring to the acts of broadcasting specified in section 3(1)(a) to (d) and were not limited to such acts when committed by that category of persons listed in section 3(3) under that section. "As" should be interpreted as meaning "in the manner of".

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing appeals against conviction by Nicholas Edward Murray, Paul Fairies, Rob Eden and Linda Ann Murray.

On November 17, 1988 in County Crown Court (Judge Croomie and a jury) they all pleaded not guilty to contravening the 1967 Act. On November 18 Fairies changed his plea to guilty.

On November 28, following submissions, Mr and Mrs Murray and Cole changed their pleas to guilty. On November 30, after a trial, Eden was convicted.

Nicholas Murray, for conspiring to contravene section 3, contrary to section 1 of the Criminal Law Act, 1977, was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £1,500 towards the prosecution costs. For conspiring to contravene section 3 he was fined £300. Fairies, for conspiring to contravene section 5, was fined £1,000 with £500 costs. Cole, for

conspiring to contravene section 3, was fined £1,500 with £1,500 costs. Eden, for inviting another person to broadcast by means of a broadcast to be made from a ship on the high seas, in contravention of section 5, was fined £250. Linda Murray, for conspiring to contravene sections 3 and 5, was fined £500 and £250.

Section 1 of the 1967 Act provides: "It shall not be lawful for a broadcast to be made from a ship or aircraft while it is in or over the United Kingdom or colonial waters, nor shall it be lawful for a broadcast to be made from a ship or aircraft while it is in or over the United Kingdom or colonial waters (defined in section 9 as meaning 'the whole of the sea adjacent to the United Kingdom which is within the seaward limits of the territorial waters adjacent thereto')."

Section 2 prohibits broadcasting from marine structures.

Section 3 provides: "(1) If a broadcast is made - (a) from a ship other than one registered in the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man or any of the Channel Islands while the ship is on the high seas; or (b) from an aircraft other than one so registered while the aircraft is in or over the high seas; or (c) from a structure on the high seas, being a structure affixed to, or supported by, the bed of those seas and not being a ship; or (d) from any other object on those seas, being neither a structure affixed to or supported as aforesaid nor a

ship or aircraft; any of the persons mentioned in the subsection (3) below who operates, or participates in the operation of, the apparatus by means of which the broadcast is made shall be guilty of an offence.

"(2) A person who procures a broadcast to be made as mentioned in the foregoing subsection shall be guilty of an offence.

"(3) The persons referred to in subsection (1) above are the following, namely: - (a) a citizen of the United Kingdom or colonies; (b) a British subject by virtue of section 13 of the British Nationality Act 1948; (c) a British subject without citizenship by virtue of section 13 of that Act; (d) a British subject by virtue of the British Nationality Act 1965; and (e) a British protected person (within the meaning of the British Nationality Act 1948)."

Section 5 prohibits acts relating to matter broadcast from ships, aircraft, etc.

Mr Michael Consens, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellants; Mr Bruce Houlder for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that between January 1984 and November 1985 pirate radio stations called Laser and Caroline were broadcasting popular music and advertisements from ships moored in Knock Deep off the coast of the Isle of Man, which was outside United Kingdom territorial waters.

Laser was broadcasting from the MV Communicator, a Panamanian-registered vessel. The

vessel was under surveillance by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The prosecution alleged that the activities of the appellants in maintaining the broadcasts from radio stations aboard those ships, stations which were otherwise run by American subjects.

The submissions made to the judge, before the Murrays pleaded guilty, were designed to show that the prosecution was based upon a misinterpretation of section 3(2) of the 1967 Act and that it was also misconceived in so far as it related to section 3.

It was contended that no matter what activity was complained of it could not constitute an offence under section 3 unless it related to the conduct of persons aboard the pirate vessel who were either citizens of this country or were otherwise British subjects.

It was agreed that the prosecution had not established the nationality of those aboard the vessel making the broadcasts and so, it was argued, the judge had no alternative but to direct the jury to acquit in regard to the allegations made under section 3.

A similar submission was made in regard to section 5, on the basis that since intent was an ingredient of an offence under that section, no one could be convicted of offending against the section unless the person charged could be proved to have had an intention to do the act forbidden with the knowledge that the persons in respect of whom he had performed the act were either citizens of this

country or otherwise British subjects.

The judge ruled in respect of section 3(2) that what the prosecution had to prove, in relation to each defendant, was that there was an agreement to which that defendant was a party, made within the jurisdiction, to procure that a broadcast or broadcasts should be made from a foreign ship or ships while on the high seas, and not that such a conspiracy should be made by British citizens operating equipment necessary for that broadcast to be made. He also rejected the submission relating to section 5.

The origin of the legislation was the European Agreement for the Prevention of Broadcasts Transmitted from Stations outside National Territories (Cund 2616) made in Strasbourg in 1965. This was the first time that the 1967 Act had been considered by the courts.

A cogent submission made on behalf of the appellants was that the expression in section 3(2) "procures a broadcast to be made as mentioned in the foregoing subsection" was referable to the conduct of the persons referred to in the subsection and not to the making of the broadcast itself and the manner in which the broadcast was made.

The legislation was clearly designed to prevent so far as possible, broadcasts from ships lying in the sea outside territorial limits.

Clearly it was effective if the prosecution proved that the broadcasters on the ship were British subjects. What, then, was the effect if they were not, or not proved to be?

Suppose a person in this country arranged for someone on the Continent, for a substantial reward, to bring a ship to just outside the territorial waters of this country and broadcast with equipment, crew and staff from the Continent.

It would be surprising if Parliament did not intend by the legislation to suppress the conduct of the person in this country, who had undoubtedly procured the broadcast, and not to the persons there mentioned and listed in subsection (3).

To say that section 3(2) was entirely governed by subsection (3) was to defy the ordinary understanding of the plain words used.

The judge's rulings were right and all the appeals would be dismissed.

Solicitors: CPS, HQ.

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Slicing cooked meat is not preparation of food

Leeds City Council v J. H. Dewhurst Ltd
Before Lord Justice Neill and Mr Justice Garland

[Judgment March 20]

The slicing of cooked meats in a preserved food intended for sale under section 16(1)(b) of the Food Act 1984.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing a prosecutor's appeal brought by way of case stated against the dismissal by Leeds Justices on January 16, 1989 to dismiss an information, presented by Mr Stephen Wilkins on behalf of Leeds City Council, alleging that the defendant company, J. H. Dewhurst Ltd, used premises at 11 Bramley Town Centre, Leeds, for the preparation or manufacture of food intended for sale, namely the slicing of various types of cooked meat, without being registered with the local authority for that purpose under section 16 of the Food Act 1984.

Section 16 of the 1984 Act provides: "(1) No premises shall be used for... (b) the preparation or manufacture of food intended for sale, unless they are registered under this section for that purpose by the local authority. For the purposes of this subsection... (ii) the preparation

of meat or fish by any process of cooking shall be deemed to be the preparation of that meat or fish.

Mr Timothy Straker for the local authority; Mr Robert Anderson for the company.

MR JUSTICE GARLAND said that the question set out in the case stated was whether the meaning of the words "preparation of preserved food intended for sale" was restricted to the cooking of food in accordance with section 16(1)(b) of the 1984 Act or whether the phrase had a wider interpretation which would include the slicing of meats.

The restriction of the question to cooking was plainly wrong and was never suggested in the course of argument.

The correct question for the court to consider was to adapt the latter part of the sentence and ask whether the words in section 16(1)(b) had an interpretation sufficiently wide to include the slicing of cooked meats in a butcher shop.

Mr Straker submitted, *inter alia*, that section 16 was, on its plain and ordinary meaning, applicable widely to comprehended slicing. The purpose of section 16 was to define categories of foodstuff in respect of which registration was required and where those categories were prepared, section 16(3) indicated by the exclusion of

various premises the width of what was included.

Mr Anderson submitted, *inter alia*, that section 16 was designed to give local authorities some control over premises used for the production rather than retail outlets; the latter being protected by sections 2, 8 and 20 and the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations (SI 1970 No 1172) along with the added sanctions of a closure order in section 21 and an emergency order in section 22.

Thus, Mr Anderson submitted, the point of section 16 was to cover the limited activities where food was treated and manufactured by picking and so on which changed the physical state of the food but did not extend to the secondary activity of slicing the food which did nothing to change the physical condition.

To give any wider meaning to the section, Mr Anderson submitted, would be to produce an unreasonable result and cause vast numbers of retail outlets to have to register.

In his Lordship's opinion, the submissions of Mr Anderson were well founded. The words of the section were to be given their plain ordinary meaning and read in context.

Lord Justice Neill agreed.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard for Mr Stephen D. Currell, Leeds; R. A. Roberts.

Immigrants' admissions made under pressure

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Masoomi and Another
Before Mr Justice Schiemann

[Judgment March 17]

Makers of admissions made to an immigration officer which might have been the result of pressure by a third party were not thereby illegal entrants as defined by section 33(1) of the Immigration Act 1971.

Mr Justice Schiemann so held in the Queen's Bench Division quashing an immigration officer's decision to that effect in the case of Anahide and Somasack Masoomi, a brother and sister from Thailand.

Mr Richard Ryde for the applicants; Mr Robert Jay for the Home Secretary.

MR JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said the applicants had come to this country from Thailand in 1988 to study on student visas. While studying they had applied for and obtained Home Office consent to work in a restaurant owned by a relative and her English husband.

It was said by the Home Office that by declaring an intention to study when they entered the United Kingdom without at the same time declar-

ing that there was also an intention to work they were making a statement which they knew to be false and had therefore entered illegally.

An immigration officer visited the restaurant after receiving a letter of denunciation. He told the English proprietor he believed there had been an intention from the beginning that the students should come to England from Thailand and work in the restaurant.

The proprietor then spoke to the two applicants. His Lord-

ship found that at that point the proprietor was a worried man and might have been prepared to advise anything in order to get the immigration people off his back.

As a result of their conversation with the proprietor the two applicants were convinced that they should say whatever they thought the immigration officer wanted them to say.

They were then interviewed through an interpreter by the immigration officer in circumstances which must of their very

nature have been perturbing. His Lordship was not satisfied that the applicants had intended to work in England with or without permission. Both applicants had also denied having formed an intention while in Thailand to work in England if permission could be obtained.

Despite some suspicion that they did have such a conditional intention, his Lordship was not satisfied that they did.

Solicitors: Malkin Cullis & Sampson; Treasury Solicitor.

Evidence conflicted with plea

Crabtree v United Kingdom
Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting

A person whose representative at a disciplinary hearing admitted the allegations and whose own evidence amounted to a denial of the charges was entitled to be treated as if he had not admitted the charge.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Mr Justice Simon Brown) so held on March 14 in allowing an appeal by

James Matthew Crabtree from a decision of the conduct committee of the UK Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting to remove his name from the professional register for misconduct.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said the appellant, a state-registered nurse, pleaded guilty at Sheffield Crown Court to stealing a benefit book and obtaining property by deception. He was conditionally discharged and ordered to pay compensation.

When his representative told

the committee he admitted the charges, the chairman announced that they found them proved. But it became clear that he was denying dishonesty.

At that point the committee should have treated the situation as one in which he had not admitted the facts alleged in the charge, or at the very least invited him to consider if he wished to retract his admission.

The court directed that the case be remitted to the committee to be reheard as if the appellant had not admitted the charge.

STEPPING STONES

Continued From Previous Page

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McCrory to the top

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By Sri Kumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

Lampkin's trainer, Randy Golditch, replied: "That's typical talk from Beau. But he has a champion and it's his moment." Golditch was in no doubt that Lampkin would knock out McCrory. Glenn said he was sure Lampkin would have his crowd behind him but if he lasts more than three minutes it will be a miracle."

Kelly given incentive

Kelly, who flew to Carrick immediately after abandoning the Milan-San Remo race last

Saturday for the christening of his twins, Nigel and Stacy, was training in Ireland yesterday and indicated that the 500-mile Nissan race will be on his schedule.

TOUR ROUTE: Oct 3: Dublin to Waterford, 110 miles; Oct 4: Waterford to Carrick-on-Shannon, 16 miles; Carrick to Cork, 66 miles; Oct 5: Kinnegora to Killybeg, 110 miles; Oct 6: Killybeg to Limerick, 100 miles; Oct 7: Limerick to Dublin, 90 miles.

Spirit of Bannockburn prevails at Murrayfield

The reference in the editorial to "fair play" at Battle of Bannockburn in 1314 is ridiculous. Had we been looking at the reverse situation in history doubtless the English would have been congratulated for good leadership and excellent use of resources - I somehow doubt if fair play would have entered the equation.

The comment about laws to encourage more open rugby and the absence of penalties also

As a footnote, in the light of the new "fair play" approach adopted by the English since Saturday, now may be the time when a request for the return of the Stone of Destiny to its rightful home may be looked upon fairly.

Yours faithfully,
DAVE WILLIAMS,
36 Eldon Road, Gosforth,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

Why is it that perfectly honourable and upright men, who would not transgress the laws of the land or the accepted rules of decent behaviour, seem to change character when they don a rugby shirt and show scant regard for their laws of the game?

defined a goal scored after a try as being worth six points but added "in which case the try shall not count". The term gives to a converted try is still a goal and is shown as such on scoreboards the world over. Kicks converting tries, therefore, seem legitimate, are kicks to punish misdeeds and do not seem as less so.

LARRY LAMB,
Hambleton, 17 Meadow,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire

Wallace is the latest pretender

Running had to wait until Patrick, now 13 months, came along to join James, aged three. Meanwhile, Hambly worked on the theory side. He settled on the training programme that Wallace would follow, and the irony of her trial victory over Jill Hunter, the Commonwealth Games 10,000 metres runner-up, was that Hambly had adapted a 5,000 metres schedule set by Harry Wilson, Hunter's coach.

Hambly, a fair club runner.



Which is why, with his own 10,000 metres time around 32 minutes, he says that Wallace, in her first track season, will run close to 32 minutes, putting her in contention for the European championships on the track—*"unless she can make it at 3,000 metres"*. He explains: Running 10,000 metres is hard and you can't do many of them. She's going to be thinking of under 8 minutes 50sec for 3,000 metres."

to interfere with thorough preparation. Instead, she was up in the night at her airport hotel. "I wanted to watch Jill Hunter and Liz McColgan in the Commonwealth 10,000 metres. I thought I might learn something."

She learned quickly. The weekend she finished fifth, only four seconds behind Aurora and Cunha, the former 15-kilometre world road champion. According to Hamby, Jeannie Pippen is the winner that day, half an minute clear of Wallace, with it

Without McColgan, Huntley, the Tooby twins, Yvonne Murray, and the best four men in Britain are a team of little talent in France. But, this being the year of the underdog, Walla might just get up there with Buster Douglas, Oldham Athletic and the England cricket team. Win or lose, though it will be back to Paington Green next week. And the repetitions will be a damn.

Blizzard-stopper who likes to be in middle of fray

Denis is the only Minister for Sport and MP to have refereed football at Wembley, but he is a former umpire for our Commons Cricket XI: it is clear that he likes to be in charge.

Deuchar heads line-up

The world No. 1, Lachie Deuchar, is seeded one ahead of the former world champion.

Chris Ronaldson, and Julian Snow, the world's No. 1 amateur who recently won the Seacourt Silver Racket, the Jesmond Dene Cup and the Queen's weekend. Deuchar and Ronaldson may face a tough challenge in the doubles from Jonathan Howell, the professional at the new Oratory School Court and Kevin Sheldon, the Leamington professional.

SPORTS LETTERS

Football must learn from US

particular towards obligatory "money for the players". In so doing, is he not ignoring the main one, the difference between the need and the want to in anything - change has already worsened cricket and soccer, in a way that rugby football does not need, however much some may want it.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID FEARNLEY,
The Grange, Hopton,
Mirfield, West Yorkshire.

Oldham deserve credit for win

makes it the only international coaching organization in existence. Similarly it is the only coaching method endorsed by ATP and WITA, the two professional players unions. Although the USPTR is not recognized by the LTA, I am pleased to say that many clubs are looking for coaches with the American qualification and USPTR coaches are used in many of the country's leading clubs.

Give Johnson a fair chance

Sir, Presumably, after Norton
Coin's great triumph in the
Cheltenham Gold Cup (report,
March 16), jumping stables will
be head-hunting senior police
officers to join their staffs.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN HARVEY,
12 Southfield Road,
Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.

**Sports Letters may be sent
by fax to 01-782 5046**

Mulish behaviour

From Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. T. MacPheridge to Correspondent, Michael Seely, in writing "Cavies Clough, who had lost 20 lengths at the start by his defeat in the 'revelation' race, had not been never served with mules. If he had, he would have learnt that the mule is intelligent, and that the mule is not stoical. Does he know that the mule, Lord Fauntleroy, won in 1976 the Biontennial Transatlantic Race of 3,100 miles from New York State to California in the time of 98 days? No mule would have been whipped used at Cheltenham."

*Yours,
Charles MacPheridge
(Vice-Chairman, British Mule Society)*

*Headeryde Lodge,
Whynesside Road,
Wendy, Berwickshire*

Police recruitment

From Mr Colin S. Harvey.
Sir, Presumably, after Norton
Coin's great triumph in the
Cheltenham Gold Cup (report,
March 16), jumping stables will
be head-hunting senior police
officers to join their staffs.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN HARVEY,
12 Southfield Road,
Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.

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by fax to 01-782 5046**

The Times invites 16 leading trainers to offer an early assessment of their prospects for the big races this Flat season

Introducing the classic class of 1990



Ian Balding

Age: 51. Trains at Kingsclere, Berkshire.
Big-race wins: Derby, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, Champion Stakes.
1989 record in Britain: 41 winners, £255,557 win and place prize money.
Horses in training: 90.

Prospects

"Dashing Blade injured his back about three weeks ago. It's a shame because he has matured physically extremely well and looks magnificent, but he's not in work at the moment. He looks certain to miss the trials, and he'll be lucky to get to the Guineas, but I'm not going to hurry him."

"I think Spinning is a genuine Derby horse and all being well will reappear in the Warren Stakes at Epsom next month."

"Routlands is a very nice three-year-old filly and Parting Moment will start in handicaps at a mile and a half and go on from there."



Francois Boutin

Age: 53. Trains at Lamorlaye, France.
Big-race wins: French Derby, Oaks, 2,000 Guineas, 1,000 Guineas, Chantilly Stakes, Irish Derby, Washington International, Breeders' Cup Mile.
140 winners in France, £1,527,915.
Horses in training: 190.

Prospects

"Machievellian has just done his first serious piece of work this week and I could not be more pleased with him. He has wintered well."

"I will bring him along gradually and his prep-race will be the Prix d'Arleux at Maisons-Laffitte on April 10. His big target remains the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket."

"Of my other classic hopes, Linamix is a nice sort and is being aimed at the French 2,000 Guineas, while Intimiste goes for the Prix Noailles."

"I have some decent fillies and I am hopeful Evocatrice may develop into a classic contender."



Clive Brittain

Age: 56. Trains at Newmarket.
Big-race wins: 1,000 Guineas, St Leger, Eclipse Stakes, Breeders' Cup Turf, Japan Cup.
88 winners, £237,654.
Horses in training: 130.

Prospects

"We have a nice selection of older horses this year including Mountain Kingdom, who is in Australia at the moment being prepared for the BMW International on April 7, and he should have a good season on his return."

"I'm sending Air Music to Doncaster this week and if he runs as well as I hope, then he'll be trained for the Kentucky Derby. He looks just the type for the race. Rashmore seems well treated in the Free Handicap, but Call To Arms, a tough, hardy sort, is too high in the weights and will run in listed races."

"We've some decent three-year-old maidens including Asvari, who hasn't run but is doing very well."



Henry Cecil

Age: 47. Trains at Newmarket.
Big-race wins: Derby (twice), Oaks (twice), 2,000 Guineas (twice), 1,000 Guineas (three times), St Leger (four times), French & Irish Derby, King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, Eclipse Stakes (three times).
116 winners, £1,606,561.
Horses in training: 211.

Prospects

"Be My Chief won all his six races as a two-year-old. He was particularly impressive when winning the Racing Post Trophy. He's done very well. I'm training him for the Guineas and he might go for the Craven first. Be My Chief loves soft ground and I think he will stay 10 furlongs at least."

"Shavian is another nice colt, who won well at Ascot in the autumn. He could well stay middle distances in due course, but is by Kris and has got plenty of speed."

"Dress Parade, Great Heights and Private Tender are promising three-year-old maidens."



Luca Cumani

Age: 40. Trains at Newmarket.
Big-race wins: Derby, St Leger, Irish Derby, Boodles Millen.
88 winners, £1,142,277.
Horses in training: 187.

Prospects

"It's difficult for me to be positive about my prospects this year. The first ground and the flu, which affected every one last summer, prevented me from getting to know my two-year-olds as well as usual. My guess is that I will be a bit light on classic colts but stronger on fillies."

"The best colts I could mention at the moment would be Bridal Toast and Ruddy's Fantasy. As far as the fillies are concerned, I would mention Line Of Thunder and Alwatha for the 1,000 Guineas and Narvala for the Oaks."

"Alwatha wouldn't stay further than a mile, but we'll have to find out about Line Of Thunder. She was second in the Cheveley Park but is bred to get further."



John Dunlop

Age: 50. Trains at Arundel, Sussex.
Big-race wins: Derby, Irish Derby, Irish 2,000 Guineas, Oaks, 1,000 Guineas, St Leger.
60 winners, £445,747.
Horses in training: 130.

Prospects

"We're a bit weaker among the older horses compared with previous years and it's the same with the three-year-olds. We're stronger among the three-year-old fillies and Salsabil has done particularly well through the winter."

"We've two or three well-bred fillies who have shown promise on the racecourse and should do well this season including Wassah and Salsabil. Of the colts, Baligh is probably the best at the moment. He was second, beaten a long way in the Racing Post Trophy at Newcastle by Be My Chief, and he'll have to improve a lot to take a hand in the top races."



David Elsworth

Age: 50. Trains at Whitbury, Hampshire.
Big-race wins: Cheveley Park Stakes, Goodwood Cup, Royal Hunt Cup, Jersey Stakes.
35 winners, £476,584.
Horses in training: 141.

Prospects

"I hope to run Dead Certain in the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury and In The Groove in the Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket. Both fillies are well forward. We're very excited and optimistic."

"Dead Certain was giving weight when just beaten by Crime Of Passion at Newmarket and had the winners of 20 races behind her when winning the Cheveley Park Stakes in the autumn. Yet the handicapper still managed to put Negligent in front of her in the Free Handicap."

"Now if you want a dark colt, I give you Silca An'Key. He may not be good enough for a classic. But he could win a group race."



John Gosden

Age: 38. Trains at Newmarket.
Big-race wins: Second season training after a successful career in the United States.
28 winners, £160,045.
Horses in training: 125.

Prospects

"Rudjig is a four-year-old who hasn't run since the Italian Derby last year, but we have decided to keep him in training."

"Of the three-year-olds, Ashan, who finished third in the Dewhurst and in the Carter Millen, has the best exposed form; he must have fast ground."

"My Lord won at Leicester last weekend and looks a good staying prospect for later in the season. Chawing is not a bad type still will run up to a mile and Rejones is another who could be all right."

"Keen Hunter and Grey Owl, both fifth at Newmarket on their only runs last year, should come into their own later on."



Richard Hannon

Age: 44. Trains at East Everleigh, Wiltshire.
Big-race wins: 2,000 Guineas (twice), Irish 2,000 Guineas.
80 winners, £500,518.
Horses in training: 107.

Prospects

"I've got three possible runners in the 2,000 Guineas: Rock City, Oasrio and Trol. Rock City is likely to go for the Greenham Stakes. I'd only switch him to the Free Handicap if the ground were to become too soft at Newbury."

"He was impressive at Royal Ascot, Newmarket and in the Gimcrack last year, and was beaten only three lengths when fourth to Machievellian in France."

"Trol won the Horris Hill last autumn. I'd like to run him in the Craven. Oasrio won the Raceall Gold Trophy at Redcar and earlier ran Be My Chief to a length. I'd like to send him for the Bonusprint at Kempton, although he's won a £100,000 race he gets no penalty."

"I'm very hopeful about those two. They were big, gangling two-year-olds; now they're big, strong three-year-olds."



Guy Harwood

Age: 50. Trains at Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire.
Big-race wins: 2,000 Guineas (twice), King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes (twice), Eclipse Stakes (twice), Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.
108 winners, £1,718,788.
Horses in training: 184.

Prospects

"Digression won the Royal Lodge Stakes for me last season and at this stage looks my principal Derby hope. He may also be given the opportunity to go for the 2,000 Guineas if he comes ready in time. He's always been classy, but it's a bit early to tell just how classy. The Craven is the likely starting point for him."

"Both Raj Waki and Duke Of Paducah have class and are entitled to be trained for the big ones. Duke Of Paducah is by Green Dancer, so should stay 1½ miles. Defensive Play is another colt you couldn't dismiss from the Derby reckoning."

"Of the fillies, Free At Last beat some useful colts in the Somerville Tattersall Stakes. Is pleasing me and will be trained for the Nell Gwyn and the 1,000 Guineas."



Dick Hern

Age: 69. Trains at West Ilsay, Shropshire.
Big-race wins: Derby (three times), Oaks (three times), 2,000 Guineas (twice), 1,000 Guineas, St Leger (six times), King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes (five times), Eclipse Stakes.
44 winners, £1,260,535.
Horses in training: 58.

Prospects

"My horses are all well forward. In fact, as far as I would want them to be at this time of the year. Makadam, Emsamal and Marienski are my most likely classic colts."

"Mukdadam, a half-brother to Nashwan and Unfuwain, won his only race at Newmarket in the autumn. He's hung away from the rails at the finish. I put that down to inexperience, so I intend to run him in the Laburnum Stakes at Kempton before tackling one of the recognized trials."

"Neither Emsamal or Marienski are certain to stay. Emsamal is by Denis and Marienski by Nureyev out of Highclere. Emsamal will go for the Craven Stakes before tackling the Guineas."



Barry Hills

Age: 52. Trains at Manton, Wiltshire.
Big-race wins: Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, 2,000 Guineas, 1,000 Guineas, Irish Derby, Irish Oaks.
73 winners, £214,118.
Horses in training: 189.

Prospects

"Negligent was rated last season's top filly after winning the Rockfili Stakes at Newmarket. She's done really well and won't run before the 1,000 Guineas. She could well stay further than that in due course."

"Silk Slippers showed plenty of stamina when coming late to win the Hoover Fillies' Mile at Ascot in September. She'll probably go for the Guineas first, but the Oaks will be her main objective."

"Sharp Mover is another nice filly with plenty of speed, who won at Sandown as a two-year-old and Spanish Empire is a Derby entry. He ran very well on his only appearance when fourth at Newbury in October, and could make up into a nice horse."



Vincent O'Brien

Age: 72. Trains at Ballydoyle, Ireland.
Big-race wins: Derby (six times), Oaks (twice), St Leger (three times), 2,000 Guineas (twice), Irish St Leger (twice), Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (three times), King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes (three times), Eclipse (five times).
27 winners, 1989 Irish prize-money only: £1,150,112.
Horses in training: 84.

Prospects

"Royal Academy and Wedding Bouquet would be our only possible runners for the English 2,000 Guineas and 1,000 Guineas respectively."

"There's no doubt that Royal Academy disappointed us when only sixth behind Dashing Blade in the Dewhurst, even though he was beaten only four lengths. With hindsight, which is always easy, he was very weak at that time."

"Wedding Bouquet did us proud last season, particularly when running Dashing Blade to three-quarters of a length in the National Stakes."

"Of our more backward colts with possible classic potential, I would single out Splash Of Colour and Stadler."



Alec Stewart

Age: 54. Trains at Newmarket.
Big-race wins: King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes, Eclipse (twice), Irish St Leger.
30 winners, £298,777.
Horses in training: 90.

Prospects

"I have five older horses this year including Ella Ardross, the champion filly in Germany last season. She's in good form. He needs a mile and a half and plenty of give in the ground but, with so many good older horses staying in training this time, it might be hard to place him."

"Kakei is my only Derby entry, and he'll have to show that he's worthy of a place in the field. Gheram has done really well and I like her a lot. If she comes to hand in time, she could go straight for the 1,000 Guineas, but I won't be hurrying her."

"Yazzi is a nice three-year-old colt who will start in handicaps, and we'll have to see how he gets on. My team look and train well at the moment, but most of the three-year-olds are good-quality handicappers."



Michael Stoute

Age: 44. Trains at Newmarket.
Big-race wins: Derby (twice), Oaks (twice), 2,000 Guineas (twice), 1,000 Guineas, Irish Derby (three times), Irish Oaks (four times).
117 winners, £2,000,330.
Horses in training: 191.

Prospects

"I'm not convinced we've got a serious classic hope at this stage. We haven't done any really serious work with the three-year-olds yet. And last season's two-year-olds weren't as good as those in previous years."

"I feel that at this stage negative information is better than inaccurate guesswork. I've got a reputation for being realistic and I don't want to lose it. I'd rather try and make sense in a week or two's time when we know more and have done more work."

"Having said that, Salsabil is a Derby entry. He is a horse I think a lot of. He won his only race at Leicester in October by five lengths although it was a slow time. Ives could be a nice filly in the making. She is by Sadler's Wells and won her maiden at Leicester in good style."



Geoffrey Wragg

Age: 60. Trains at Newmarket.
Big-race wins: Derby, King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes.
25 winners, £254,585.
Horses in training: 84.

Prospects

"Braiswick has done very well throughout the winter and I am pleased with her. We will wait for suitable ground — she must have it soft — and her distance is a mile and a quarter, so I expect she'll be tackling the big fillies' races at the back end of the season."

"Jehol is a nice horse who had problems with his back last year but he seems to be all right at the moment."

"Of the three-year-olds, Walsley will go for one of the Guineas trials and then for the 2,000 Guineas, all being well. At the moment I am aiming Dances Deke for the Derby. Of the maidens, I like Rendalls, a nice colt by Top Ville out of On The House."

Interviews by Michael Seely and Graham Rock

SQUASH RACKETS

Draw encourages Jahangir

By Colin McQuillan

Jahangir Khan's chances of creating a record of nine successive British Open victories improved when yesterday's draw for the £82,000 Hi-Tec sponsored tournament placed three of his main rivals in the bottom half and only Christopher Dittmar, the troubled world No. 3, as a top-ranked barrier to the final.

With Jahangir Khan, the world champion, seeded to meet Christopher Robertson, the world No. 4, and then Rodney Martin, the world No. 5, in a bottom half also including Umar Hayat Khan and Brett Martin, the top-seeded defending champion gained the benefit of a marginally weaker top half of the draw.

Jahangir will begin at Lambis Club, London, against Jamie Hickox on April 18 and will meet either Bryan Besson, the England captain, or Sami Elomuro, the Finnish No. 1, on the Perspex court at Wembley on April 20.

Success there would probably take the Pakistani, aged 26, to either Ross Norman, the experienced New Zealander, who ended Jahangir's 5½-year undefeated run in 1986, or Phillip

Kennyon, of England, who lost the 1979 world final to Jahangir, when the Pakistani was aged 15. In the semi-finals Jahangir faces the prospect of Dittmar, from Australia, who must regain the form with which he removed Jahangir from World Open in October after knee surgery and a serious disciplinary clash with the International Squash Players Association of which he is president.

Dittmar is in a difficult part of the draw that includes Adrian Davies, the unpredictable Welsh champion, Del Harris, the British champion, returning strongly from a back injury, and Mir Zaman Gul, the world No. 6.

Harris is due a significant British Open performance and may feel that his eleven unpressed success this time.

The women's draw raises the possibility of a first semi-final meeting between Lisa Opie, the perennial British bridesmaid, and Susan Devoy, the New Zealander, to whom she has lost so many times.

Opie is the No. 3 seed in the top half, with Martine Le Moignan, the world champion,

from England, seeded No. 4 behind Danielle Drady, of Australia, in the bottom half. Le Moignan will need to overcome Suzanne Horner, the Yorkshire champion, who beat her in the recent East of England final, to reach a semi-final against Drady, who may have her own problems surviving the challenge of Lucy Soutter, the British champion, returning not have any problems until she meets Michelle Martin, of Australia, in the quarter-finals, but her run could end abruptly against Devoy, in search of a sixth successive British Open title, who has won three important tournaments with ominous accuracy.

The dark horse of the top half may be Alison Cummings, the former national champion, aged 28, who has rejuvenated her career playing at second string behind Martin in the Women's Superleague this season.

LEONARD SEDGWICK: Jahangir Khan (left) and Christopher Dittmar (right) in action during the semi-final of the British Open Squash Championships at the Royal Albert Hall, London. Jahangir Khan (left) and Christopher Dittmar (right) in action during the semi-final of the British Open Squash Championships at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

Dispossessed and restructured former champions will not be the Wizards' only worries next season, however.

Fosters Stripes, the southern second division champions, can already cash on the world champion, and Mir Zaman Gul, the world No. 6. Other London-based Pakistanis might be amused to join them in challenging Welsh first division superiority.

RESULTS: Lambis Club 3, Leaks Welsh Wizards 2; Embassy Edgworth Priory 1, UTC Canons 4; GT Superkings Abbeville 2, Village Leisure Hotels 3; War Systems Surrey 2, Alports Northants 3.

ICE HOCKEY

Britain in need of aggression

By Norman de Mesquita

On the evidence of the opening pool of the 1990 world championships in Cardiff, Great Britain have little to fear when they meet Spain tonight. The first impressions of the British contingent, which watched the Spaniards draw 2-2 with Australia on Tuesday, were that neither side should prove too demanding for the hosts.

Alex Dampier, the British coach, was a little cagey when asked about his reaction to the opening game. "Both teams seemed a little nervous," he said, "but I am sure they will settle down and play better during the rest of the week."

"The Spaniards are a young side with a lot of speed and skill and could prove troublesome."

The Australians had their goalscoring, Damian Holland, to thank for his 48 saves against Spain, without which his side would have been heavily beaten. "He is very talented and could certainly prove a stumbling block," Dampier said.

The young Spaniards seemed somewhat inhibited by the physical nature of the Australians' play and with British ice hockey also allaying a physical approach to speed and skill, this could prove to be very much to Great Britain's advantage when they face the Spaniards tomorrow.

Dampier said: "The Spaniards are not used to that style. They do not play that way in Spain and when they meet British teams, they get bumped around a bit and it is a little bit new to them. If everything goes according to plan, I think we will do quite well."

All 21 members of the British squad looked fit and keen at a 45-minute workout yesterday. One thing Dampier would not reveal is who will be playing in goal against Australia in the opening match. "The two goalies to dress will be Jeff Smith and David Graham. Who starts remains to be seen," he said.

HOCKEY

RAF join the battle too late

By Sydney Friskin

Royal Navy..... 2
Royal Air Force..... 1

The Services championship began at Reading yesterday in the same manner as it did last year, with the Royal Navy defeating the Royal Air Force and by the same score. The RAF then were not the defending champions as they are now.

Yesterday's result was a fair index of the run of play. The RAF woke up in the last six minutes but could not cancel out the two-goal lead which the Navy had deservedly taken in the first half.

The first half was a period of wasted opportunity, particularly for the RAF, whose shooting went sadly astray. In the fifteenth minute, however, their goalmouth was deprived of a goal by Ardshe, who saved on the line. Five minutes later Smith just failed to make contact with the ball hastily despatched by Moseley.

The Navy went ahead unexpectedly in the 55th minute.

This year Ipswich won the junior club championship and have three players in the squad to play in the World Cup in Australia.

It will be the first women's club in the country to own a floodlit artificial pitch.

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WOMEN

Women turn artificial

By Sydney Friskin

Ipswich LHC is set to achieve a long standing ambition — to provide the area with its first floodlit artificial pitch — which will be ready for the new season in September (Joyce Whitehead writes).

Thanks largely to a new agreement with Fisons, the sponsor of the club, plus grant aid from the Sports Council and Ipswich council and £100,000

from the club's own resources, work on the £350,000 pitch will start next month.

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RACING

Beau Sher primed for a flying start in Doncaster Mile

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

With Beau Sher, Gran Alba, Just Three, Lunar Mover, and Air Music all standing their ground at Town Moor today, the Doncaster Mile has blossomed.

It is possible to make out a case for each of the quarter, but I favour Beau Sher most. By winning the corresponding event last year, Beau Sher's seven-year-old proved that he comes to hand with the minimum of fuss.

Afterwards, Beau Sher went on to score at Leicester and Haydock in the first half of the season before finishing a highly creditable second in the Prince of Wales's Stakes at Royal Ascot.

Gran Alba and Lunar Mover also won first time out last season before stepping up a level to finish sixth in a classic, Granalba in the Derby, Lunar Mover in the 2,000 Guineas. Unfortunately, that was the last we saw of Lunar Mover who fractured a cannon bone in the process.

While he is reported to be moving nicely at home, the racecourse still remains the acid test for one who has that sort of injury.

With five victories to his credit, Just Three was the most prolific. As all those wins were over seven furlongs, though, it remains to be seen how he fares over this extra



Ben Hanbury, who trains the talented Beau Sher

trip against horses of the calibre of Beau Sher. However, I am loath to side with a three-year-old maiden, albeit a promising one such as Air Music, against a mature horse like Beau Sher so early in the season.

Now that he has been drawn in stall one, Qualitair Aviator appears as a good bet to win the Northern Handicap, and he is my nap. From that spot next to the rails John Bottomley's four-year-old will be in the perfect position to try to lead all the way, in the hands of Gary Bardwell.

Over the jumps at Devon & Exeter, Rosamy King, who has already won two hurdles on the track, can sustain his progress over fences by making sure that the Heavies Brewery Challenge Cup becomes his third victory in four starts.

Blinkered first time Doncaster: 4.40 PM. Falcas.

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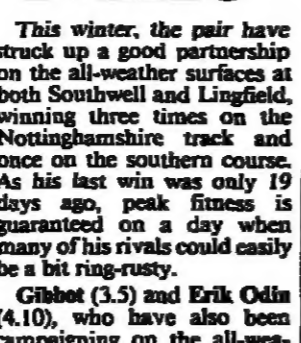
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By George Rae

Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, the chairman of United Racecourses, yesterday threw open the record books for the 1989 season.

The 126 entries for this year's race, the 21st running of the Epsom classic, was some 25 per cent down on last year's figure of 169. In 1987 there were 208 entries.

Speaking at the Ever Ready lunch in London yesterday, Sir Evelyn said: "I am looking for many people as possible to write to me personally and offer their suggestions for changes to the entry system."

"Trying to get the balance right is a conundrum," he went on. "I would like to hear the arguments for entering as two-year-olds, three-year-olds, or even as foals. We are considering alterations and we want to get it right."

That Sir Evelyn has opened the argument to public debate suggests disquiet with the existing system and the corresponding decline in entries. Although the entry fee of £1,320 has remained the same for four years, the cost of having a horse race has increased from £2,400 in 1987 to £5,000 this year. Total prize-money for the race will be £600,000 with the winner's owner receiving £355,000.

The Racecourse Owners' Association (ROA), whose members must ultimately foot the bill, has argued for a lower entry fee to draw in the less wealthy. A wider base would be created, and at the same time the allegations of collusion which regularly attend the announcement of the entries.

The cost of the later forfeits would be raised, as by the time of the recognised trials owners should know whether they have a genuine classic horse or not. Whether the ROA will get its way remains to be seen, but the Rothschild's mood suggests changes are at hand.

For the fifth year in succession, Sheikh Mohammed is represented by the largest number of entries. However, even he has apparently exercised more restraint with only 21 against 36 a year ago. Khalid Abdulla has also cut back, the remainder of the Maktoom family seven.

Henry Cecil, twice successful in the race with Slip Anchor and Reference Point, has the most entries among the trainers with 17, including Be My Chief, unbeaten in six races last season. Guy Harwood includes Royal Lodge, Saloon, and Progress, the early favourite in most books, among his 13 hopefuls.

Dick Hern, responsible for last year's winner Nashwan, has seven to call upon this time, notably Elmasnawi, Marianski and Mukaddam, a half-brother to Nashwan. Appearing their respective classic routes, Hern confirmed Mukaddam as a probable for Kempton on April 6, adding: "Elmasnawi has pleased me over the winter and is likely to run in the Craven Stakes at Newmarket, while Marianski will probably win the Sandown Classic Trial."

There was also news of last year's classic crop. Charles St George is thinking of starting Michieozzo, his St Leger winner, in the Prix Longchamps on April 27. "He is in fine shape and the Gannay is a suitable early objective as long as the ground is wet."

Long term to win a Listed race at Phoenix Park (Irish 100 Guineas) on August 2nd to follow at Newbury (Irish 100 Guineas) on August 10th. LUNAR MOVER driven out to last Doncaster Stakes on Kempton (Irish 100 Guineas) on August 11th to Two Yearling at Ascot (Irish 100 Guineas) on August 12th.

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right is a conundrum," he went on. "I would like to hear the arguments for entering as two-year-olds, three-year-olds, or even as foals. We are considering alterations and we want to get it right."

That Sir Evelyn has opened the argument to public debate suggests disquiet with the existing system and the corresponding decline in entries. Although the entry fee of £1,320 has remained the same for four years, the cost of having a horse race has increased from £2,400 in 1987 to £5,000 this year. Total prize-money for the race will be £600,000 with the winner's owner receiving £355,000.

The Racecourse Owners' Association (ROA), whose members must ultimately foot the bill, has argued for a lower entry fee to draw in the less wealthy. A wider base would be created, and at the same time the allegations of collusion which regularly attend the announcement of the entries.

The cost of the later forfeits would be raised, as by the time of the recognised trials owners should know whether they have a genuine classic horse or not. Whether the ROA will get its way remains to be seen, but the Rothschild's mood suggests changes are at hand.

For the fifth year in succession, Sheikh Mohammed is represented by the largest number of entries. However, even he has apparently exercised more restraint with only 21 against 36 a year ago. Khalid Abdulla has also cut back, the remainder of the Maktoom family seven.

Henry Cecil, twice successful in the race with Slip Anchor and Reference Point, has the most entries among the trainers with 17, including Be My Chief, unbeaten in six races last season. Guy Harwood includes Royal Lodge, Saloon, and Progress, the early favourite in most books, among his 13 hopefuls.

Dick Hern, responsible for last year's winner Nashwan, has seven to call upon this time, notably Elmasnawi, Marianski and Mukaddam, a half-brother to Nashwan. Appearing their respective classic routes, Hern confirmed Mukaddam as a probable for Kempton on April 6, adding: "Elmasnawi has pleased me over the winter and is likely to run in the Craven Stakes at Newmarket, while Marianski will probably win the Sandown Classic Trial."

There was also news of last year's classic crop. Charles St George is thinking of starting Michieozzo, his St Leger winner, in the Prix Longchamps on April 27. "He is in fine shape and the Gannay is a suitable early objective as long as the ground is wet."

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